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INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 11, 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Chair and Mr. Chair:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from revolutionary startups to the most iconic companies on the planet. TechNet represents over three million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

On behalf of TechNet, I am writing today to urge you and your colleagues in the Maryland Legislature to vote in favor of House Bill 448 (Rosenberg) and Senate Bill 402 (Kagan and Lam). This legislation will encourage the use of innovative technologies and remove an important artificial barrier to the use of telehealth. Namely, any requirement that the first telehealth visit use an audio-visual connection restricts access to health care and diminishes the use of cost-saving technologies. This is a clinically unsupported requirement that has put Maryland's telehealth policies among the most restrictive in the nation.

It is our belief that telehealth should be supported as a tool to practice medicine and ensure consumers have access to affordable healthcare options, and that the standard of care should govern all Maryland-licensed practitioners – regardless of what technology they use.

We urge you to vote “yes” on SB 402 and HB 448 and remove this problematic provision, which TechNet believes hinders innovation, access and consumer choice. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on this issue should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christina Fisher  
Executive Director, Northeast  
TechNet