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Support

HB 448 – Health Care Practitioners – Telehealth

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 18, 2020

My name is Melanie Horowitz, a resident of Weston, FL, a second-year at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and I support *HB 448 – Health Care Practitioners -- Telehealth*. This bill would allow for asynchronous prescribing of medications at the patient’s request and the doctor’s discretion.

I manage two conditions that require regular refilling of prescriptions: dysmenorrhea and eczema. For dysmenorrhea, I take Junel, a birth control pill. Without it, I would be bed-ridden four days out of every month from extreme menstrual cramps. Fortunately, it’s a daily pill and I know when I’m going to run out and need a re-fill, so I can time refills for when I go home. Unfortunately, that means that out of the small amount of time per year I get to see my family, I have to dedicate some of that time to heading to the doctor’s office and sitting in the waiting room just to refill a prescription I know I need and my doctors know I need.

For eczema, I take desonide, a topical cream. I don’t get to predict when I run out of this, since I use it as needed for eczema outbreaks. If I have several outbreaks at the beginning of the semester and run out of cream, I just have to tough it out until I can get to my dermatologist again.

I’m under enough stress academically at Johns Hopkins. I don’t need the added stress of scheduling a face-to-face appointment for prescriptions I know I need, I know how to use, and have been available for years. To be able to message a doctor on a secure app—and know that my prescription refill will follow shortly after that—would reduce a lot of my stress, as well as that of many of my classmates.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB 448. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.