



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 3

DATE: January 27, 2021

SPONSOR: Senator Griffith, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Health and Human Services)

Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021

Senate Bill 3 would expand the definition of “telehealth” for both Medicaid and private insurance to importantly include audio-only communications and require that insurance carriers reimburse providers on the same basis and at the same rate for telehealth services as for in-person services.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) strongly supports Senate Bill 3 because of the successes we have experienced with utilizing telehealth, particularly audio-only communications, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the at-times restricted access to health care providers and the general changes in daily life due to COVID-19, providing services such as behavioral health services to County residents via telehealth has ensured that consumers have access to qualified practitioners and culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services, no matter their location or mobility level.

Senate Bill 3 would enhance Montgomery County DHHS’ ability to provide critical services to residents in need of and respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report.