

Memorandum In Support of SB 372 – Senator Beidle

Senate Finance Committee

February 5, 2025

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nonprofit nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN empowers cancer patients, survivors, their families and other experts on the disease, amplifying their voices and public policy matters that are relevant to the cancer community at all levels of government. We support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we stand in strong support of SB 372.

Thanks to technology, there are a significant number of clinical services that can be conducted through telehealth. Telehealth enables doctors and other healthcare practitioners to provide clinical services from a distance through various forms of technology such as audio-visual communications technologies and devices that transmit data and images for remote monitoring and diagnostic evaluation. Telehealth provides cancer patients and survivors with a convenient means of accessing both cancer care and primary care – a particularly important option for individuals in rural areas of the country and the immunocompromised.

A particular benefit of telehealth emerged during the coronavirus pandemic - cancer patients vulnerable to COVID-19 could conduct a video or audio visit with their providers from the safety of their home without risking additional exposure to the virus. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of adaptable policies around telehealth that allow patients to reap the optimal benefits of telehealth.

ACS CAN, through the [Survivor Views](#) program, asked a cohort of cancer patients and survivors about their experience with and interest in telehealth. Overwhelming majorities of cancer patients and survivors who have had telehealth visits believed their issues and questions were well-addressed. Fifty-five percent of respondents had a phone visit and 43% had a video visit with a telehealth provider about an issue related to their cancer care that otherwise would have been an in-person office visit (not a prescription refill or appointment booking). In both cases, 94% said their issues and questions were addressed well.

SB 372 acknowledges the positives that have accrued through the development of telehealth services by repealing the time limitation established for reimbursement by payors. ACS CAN thanks the Chair and committee for the opportunity to testify and urges a favorable report of SB 372.