



“Advocating for Nurse Practitioners since 1992”

February 3, 2025

Bill: SB 372 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the over 850 members of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, please allow me to submit our rationale for support of SB 372:

Benefits of SB372:

1. Convenience and accessibility: By allowing telehealth services, including audio-only consultations, patients can address minor health concerns or follow-up needs without the inconvenience of traveling to an office. This is especially beneficial for:
 - individuals with mobility issues or short-term incapacitations
 - working professionals who cannot afford to take time off
 - caregivers or parents balancing multiple responsibilities
2. Timely care delivery: Telehealth reduces wait times and improves access to care by offering more flexible scheduling. It enables patients to address health concerns often earlier than waiting for an office appointment, potentially addressing a health concern in a more timely manner and preventing a potential complication from delay of care.
3. Support for vulnerable populations: Audio-only telehealth ensures that patients without access to high-speed internet, video technology, or a stable environment for video calls can still receive care. This includes rural populations, elderly patients, or those with financial constraints.
4. Cost savings and efficiency: - Telehealth reduces patient expenses related to travel, childcare, and lost wages. It streamlines administrative workflows, minimizes missed appointments, and optimizes clinic resources.
5. Continuity of care: Maintaining access to telehealth ensures that patients can stay connected to their providers, even during short-term disabilities, transportation challenges, or public health emergencies.

Thank you for consideration of our comments. We respectfully request a favorable report for SB 372.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our association via NPAM Executive Director, Malinda Duke, at NPAMexecdir@gmail.com.

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