



Joseph A. Ciotola Jr., MD & Deborah Mizeur, MHA, MS
Co-Chairs, Maryland Workgroup on Rural Health Delivery

February 11, 2020

Senator Hershey
James Senate Office Building, Room 420
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Hershey:

We are writing to express our strong support for SB 502 to provide coverage for mental health services through telemedicine.

Workforce shortages and transportation challenges severely limit access to much needed health care services in rural areas. Allowing patients to receive care through telemedicine addresses these issues by bringing providers into their homes. Telemedicine is widely accepted for many specialties and is an excellent way bring needed health services to remote and underserved areas of Maryland. **This is why the State's Rural Health Delivery Work Group unanimously recommended to expand the use of telemedicine.**

We applaud your ongoing efforts to bring mental health and other essential health services closer to the patients who need them and we look forward to continuing our work together. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

/JAC

Joseph Ciotola, MD

/DM

Deborah Mizeur, MS, MHA