

Written Testimony for

SUPPORT – SB 3 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021

Hello, my name is Esti Taragin and I am the manager of outpatient rehabilitation at Sinai Hospital, part of LifeBridge Health, and we have been using telehealth with excellent outcomes for our patients since the beginning of the pandemic.

Flexibilities to provide telehealth services granted during the COVID public health emergency were invaluable to patients. We have seen so much benefit from it.

For some patients it has even improved the care we've been able to provide. For instance, with patients who we treated in person before the pandemic, we are now able to see them in their homes and witness first-hand challenges we had only heard about. With patients who have trouble getting off the couch or navigating areas in their homes, we were able to see their issues first-hand and immediately offer them important advice that we would not have been able to prior to the emergency telehealth authorizations.

We can see them perform those tasks and gain new insight, such as the height of the couch, and give them the tools to improve. And for our patients who have disorders that cause them to be dizzy or disoriented, for example, we are able to help treat them from the comfort of their homes.

It's our eyes to being able to see inside their homes that we didn't have before.

Having the ability to incorporate telehealth into our practice has been an incredible way for us to navigate COVID, and we believe it can have a very positive impact in the future.

I urge you to **pass Senate Bill 3** so we can continue utilizing telehealth for the benefit of our patients.

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