



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 123

DATE: January 27, 2021

SPONSOR: Delegates Peña-Melnyk, R. Lewis, Stein and Wilson

ASSIGNED TO: Health and Government Operations

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

POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Health and Human Services)

Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021

House Bill 123 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.

House Bill 123 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.