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## MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



**Date:** February 22, 2023

**Bill:** Senate Bill 534 – Preserve Telehealth Act of 2023

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), is an organization representing approximately 1,200 licensed dietitians and nutritionists, dietetic interns, and students within the state of Maryland.

Senate Bill 534 *“extends to June 30, 2025, the inclusion of certain audio-only telephone conversations under the definition of “telehealth” for the purpose of certain provisions of law relating to reimbursement and coverage of telehealth by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations and extends provisions relating to payment parity until June 30, 2025.”*

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics believes it is vital to ensure everyone has timely, continuous access to safe, effective nutrition services that can improve their health and manage their chronic diseases. Registered dietitian nutritionists are recognized by the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) as the most qualified food and nutrition service providers. Studies show MNT provided by an RDN is linked to improved clinical outcomes and reduced costs related to physician’s time, medication use and hospital admissions for people with obesity, diabetes and disorders of lipid metabolism, as well as other chronic diseases.

The Academy urges state Medicaid programs and private payers that are not already covering nutrition services provided via telehealth by registered dietitian nutritionists to immediately remove those limitations. This bill will continue to address potential telehealth access to care issues by extending telehealth provisions enacted in Maryland in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAND stands ready as a resource and partner in this important undertaking. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

We respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 534.

Thank you for your consideration.

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