



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113
Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: mrspa@mrspa.org
www.mrspa.org

Senate Bill 0534
In Support Of
Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023
Finance Committee
Hearing: February 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Senator Melony Griffith, Chair, and Honorable Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair, and distinguished Finance Committee members,

**The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) supports SB 0534
Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023.**

Our MRSPA Legislative Priorities include supporting legislation that allows services that help seniors age in place and remain healthy, active, and independent. This legislation would continue access to telehealth services and require insurance companies to reimburse physicians and medical facilities for the approved telehealth services. MRSPA also believes that access to telehealth service is crucial to seniors and other vulnerable adults who may not be able to attend in-person medical appointments for a variety of reasons.

The bill modifies the existing Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021 by extending through June 30, 2025, the definition of telehealth to include audio-only telephone conversations between health care providers and patients that result in the delivery of billable and covered health care services. As such, the cost of these conversations must be reimbursed and covered by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and private health insurers. Extending the definition of telehealth to include audio-only phone conversations is critical to seniors and other Marylanders who have a restricted ability to use a computer or limited access to the internet.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB 0534.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carla J. Duls in black ink.

Carla J. Duls
President

Handwritten signature of Virginia G. Crespo in blue ink.

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide