



**MMCOA
Board of Directors**

Senate Bill 534 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023

FAVORABLE

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 21, 2023

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 534- Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association’s (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid MCOs that serve over 1.5 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program are committed to identifying ways to improve quality and access to care for all Medicaid participants.

The COVID-19 pandemic gave rise to a sharp increase in the number of Medicaid HealthChoice members accessing care through telehealth services. As we continue to plan for the efficient delivery of care via telehealth after the expiration of the public health emergency, special consideration needs to be given to the unique needs of Marylanders served by HealthChoice MCOs, including technological, transportation, geographic, and translation/linguistic concerns. Maryland’s MCOs continue to support the development and implementation of telehealth policy that results in positive health outcomes for HealthChoice members.

MMCOA supports the continued access to audio-only delivery of telehealth services, provided that the delivery is clinically appropriate and that MCOs and health care providers have discretion in determining effectiveness of this modality, given the medical needs of the patient and the services delivered.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 534.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.