



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

**Hearing Date:** March 20, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*. The bill removes the sunset date for two provisions of telehealth reimbursement policy, making those provisions permanent for the Maryland Medical Assistance and state-regulated private insurance: 1) reimbursement for audio-only services; and 2) payment parity for services provided through a telehealth platform.

ACNM supports the legislation because it provides flexibility in the use of telehealth to meet an individual’s health needs. In a position paper supporting telehealth access, ACNM affirms that “(the) use of telehealth should be individualized based on patient preference, access to necessary technology, risks, and benefits.”<sup>i</sup>

By continuing reimbursement for audio-only services, the legislation recognizes the appropriateness of this medium, particularly for the delivery of behavioral health services. With payment parity, the legislation also recognizes that providers need sufficient resources to continue to provide their services, often through the hybrid mode of in-person and telehealth platforms.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/00000000331/2022\\_ps-the-use-of-telehealth-in-midwifery%20.pdf](https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/00000000331/2022_ps-the-use-of-telehealth-in-midwifery%20.pdf)