



Maryland Community Health System

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

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*. The legislation makes two provisions of telehealth reimbursement flexibility permanent: 1) reimbursement parity; and 2) audio-only reimbursement.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral, and dental care to underserved communities throughout Maryland. Telehealth services are essential to engaging our patients in managing their care, particularly for chronic conditions such as hypertension and behavioral health care issues.

Reimbursement parity is critical. To meet the needs of their patients, most healthcare providers offer telehealth services as a complement to in-person services. Hybrid providers, including federally qualified health centers, must maintain two systems of delivering care – bricks and mortar sites and telehealth platforms. Reimbursement parity is essential for maintaining the infrastructure needed for in-person and telehealth services.

Audio-only services are critical in engaging patients who cannot access audio-video platforms.ⁱ Audio-only services support care management for older adults, people with disabilities, residents of rural communities, and people who cannot afford broadband access.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can answer any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667321522000166>