



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 869 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

Date: February 13, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 869 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*. This bill makes two telehealth reimbursement provisions permanent for Maryland Medicaid and private insurers: 1) reimbursement for audio-only telehealth appointments; and 2) reimbursement parity.

Telehealth is based on a simple principle – bringing health care directly to patients so that they do not have to navigate scheduling and transportation challenges. By providing for reimbursement of audio-only services, the bill addresses one of the major barriers to telehealth services. Many individuals and sometimes whole communities do not have access to broadband or computers. Audio-only visits are essential to connect people to the health services they need. Audio-only services have been particularly important in supporting people with behavioral health issues. Reimbursement parity is also essential to ensure providers have sufficient resources to meet their patients’ needs. Most providers offer telehealth services as complementary to in-person services.

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