



February 13, 2025

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

BILL: HB 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives.

The Foundation is pleased to support HB 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025. This bill would ensure that the state’s Medicaid program and private insurers continue to provide reimbursement for telehealth services. It would also ensure that audio-only telephone conversation between a health care provider and a patient for health care services remains included in the state’s definition of telehealth under law. Currently, those provisions are both set to expire on June 30, 2025.

Telehealth services have become an important component of our health care system and the ability for patients to access care. According to a 2024 report from the Maryland Health Care Commission, telehealth visits remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels and behavioral health visits are a top and growing use of telehealth services in our state.ⁱ The report also finds that telehealth options help to advance overall health equity, because patients from underserved communities can get care more easily where they may otherwise have to forgo needed care or travel long distances to see a doctor. It is critical that we preserve access to these options and ensure services are covered at the same rate as if a patient saw a provider in person.

The Horizon Foundation believes that all Marylanders deserve accessible and affordable health and mental health care. For this reason, the Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 869** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for your consideration.

ⁱ Maryland Health Care Commission:

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit_telemedicine/documents/telehealth_rec_rpt_sum.pdf

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