



Hospice & Palliative Care Network
OF MARYLAND

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: Support – SB372 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, and the hospice and palliative care community we serve, I am writing to express strong support for SB372 — the *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*, and respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report.

The patients and families we care for — individuals living with serious, chronic, and life-limiting illnesses — face complex medical, emotional, and logistical challenges. Telehealth has been a transformative tool, enabling providers to deliver critical care, counseling, symptom management, and family support without requiring travel that can be burdensome or impossible for patients nearing the end of life.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth became an essential part of serious illness care, helping us reach patients in rural areas, urban neighborhoods with limited transportation options, and communities that have historically faced barriers to healthcare access. The impact is clear: increased care continuity, timely symptom management, reduced hospitalizations, and more equitable access for underserved populations. Audio-only telehealth has been especially important for elderly patients, those without reliable broadband internet, and non-English speaking populations.

SB372 ensures that Maryland will not lose these gains. By preserving reimbursement parity for telehealth services, continuing to allow audio-only visits where clinically appropriate, and supporting ongoing innovation in care delivery, this legislation strengthens our collective ability to serve those who need us most.

We urge a **FAVORABLE** report for SB372 to protect telehealth access for Marylanders facing serious illness and end-of-life challenges. Thank you for your leadership, vision, and commitment to ensuring that care remains accessible, compassionate, and patient-centered.



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Sincerely,

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About Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland (HPCNM)

The Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland (HPCNM) is the leading voice for hospice and palliative care organizations across the state. Our mission is to advance and advocate for access to high-quality, compassionate care for individuals with serious and life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones. In 2023, Maryland's hospice providers collectively cared for 26,455 patients, delivering 1,439,687 Medicare-covered days of care. To learn more, visit www.hnmd.org, email Peggy Shimoda at peggy.funk@hnmd.org, or call 410-403-8063.