



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*. The legislation continues telehealth reimbursement flexibilities on a permanent basis for audio-only reimbursement and payment parity.

MASBHC thanks the Maryland General Assembly for its continued support of telehealth services provided by school-based health centers. When school-based health centers had to shut down during COVID, the Maryland General Assembly enacted SB 278/HB 34 (Senator Kagan/Delegate Rosenberg) as emergency legislation to allow school-based health centers to continue to reach students through telehealth.

School-based health centers, along with school health programs, are charged with trying to keep children healthy enough to remain in school. When students are absent from school, telehealth allows them to provide health services to students and check on their wellbeing.

MASBHC would also like to thank the Maryland Medical Assistance Program for their partnership in trying to lift the federal four-wall rule. This rule requires that either the student or health practitioner must be within the four walls of a school-based health center. This rule inhibits care when the provider must stay at home because of inclement weather or an outbreak at school. Medicaid has not received a response from CMS on the request to waive the four-wall rule. MASBHC will continue to partner with Medicaid on this critical issue.

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