



## MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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February 12, 2025

Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
House Health and Government Affairs Committee  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **HB869: Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025**

#### **Position: Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA), representing over 240 podiatrists licensed in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I write to support HB 869.

The increased use of telehealth during and following the COVID years has shown the definite benefits to the public. These services should be reimbursed at the same level as in-person services. There are many citizens of Maryland that live in rural areas, are disabled, have limited transportation or are otherwise limited in their access to in-person care. Equal reimbursement rates should be paid for these services to ensure podiatrists will continue to join insurance panels and be available to provide care to these citizens of Maryland.

HB869 also preserves the policy that audio-only services should be reimbursed at the same rate as other telehealth services. There are many citizens of Maryland, especially those in underserved communities, who lack access to reliable internet or video-capable devices and still require telehealth services. Audio-only services ensures that those without broadband access and older adults unfamiliar with video technology can still receive essential care.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 869.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director, at [Richard@SBHPA.com](mailto:Richard@SBHPA.com) or (410) 332-0736.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Lowy, D.P.M.".

Adam Lowy, D.P.M., MPMA President

Cc: Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director  
Sarah Peters, Husch Blackwell Strategies