

800 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20006



December 16, 2022

Chairwoman Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Senate Committee On Health, Education
Labor & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr.
House Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Richard Burr
U.S. Senate Committee On Health, Education
Labor & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers
House Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Burr, Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

I am writing on behalf of the Digital Health for Equitable Health (DHEH) Alliance, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of national organizations and institutions of multi-sector stakeholders, leaders, and advocates to promote equitable access to healthcare through digital health.

On behalf of our members, we ask that as you consider the final provisions of a year-end legislative package, you ensure that legislative language is included that continues to be inclusive of all persons in the United States, especially people from underserved and under accessed communities. Specifically, we urge you to extend the telehealth flexibilities and vast majority of waivers authorized by the CARES Act and other pandemic relief bills that are set to expire.

It is also our hope that as you all consider provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus spending bill, you consider the inclusion of legislation from the PREVENTS Act. We are proponents of the inclusion of establishing grant programs to support evidence-based or evidence-informed projects to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. Moreover, we are also advocating for the inclusion of legislative language that will advance the use of digital health technologies and telemedicine to address healthcare disparity, social determinants of health, digital determinants of health, and to improving health outcomes by amending the Public Health Service Act.

Without congressional action and including these provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus spending bill, there is a risk of many underserved and rural communities losing digital health and telehealth access.

The DHEH Alliance (www.dhehalliance.org) includes life sciences companies, community-based groups, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other organizations that supports policies and initiatives to increase access to digital health technologies in underserved populations in an effort to mitigate or remove existing barriers to high-quality healthcare. We believe that the increased expansion and use of

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digital technology in healthcare provides many opportunities to reach underserved communities to reduce health disparities.

As the legislation advances, we remain committed to ensuring that the bill remains as strong as possible with telehealth provisions remaining intact, as it will provide assurance to communities have access no matter their race or economic background. We look forward to continuing to work with you, lawmakers, your staffs, and other stakeholders as any legislative proposal moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Werner at michael.werner@hklaw.com.