



## **ERIC** The ERISA Industry Committee

*The Only National Association Advocating Solely for the Employee Benefit and Compensation Interests of America's Largest Employers*

1400 L Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 789-1400 • [www.eric.org](http://www.eric.org)

*Annette Guarisco Fildes, President & CEO*

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Black  
1531 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
307 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Schatz, Wicker, Cochran, Cardin, Thune, and Warner, and Representatives Black, Welch, and Harper:

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (“ERIC”), thank you for your leadership in a very important area – the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring services. We enthusiastically support your bill, the “Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act.”

As the only nonprofit national association advocating solely for the employee benefit and compensation interests of the country’s largest employers, ERIC speaks in one voice on behalf of our members who provide health benefits to millions of employees and families across the country. At ERIC, we seek to enhance the ability of our members to provide the best health care possible to their employees, retirees, and families at affordable costs.

As plan sponsors, ERIC members work to provide quality health care to workers and

their families while at the same time trying to ensure that this care is delivered in a cost-effective manner. Telehealth works for both employers and their workers. Both want employees to be healthy and to have timely access to the care they need for themselves or a loved one.

To increase widespread access to telehealth services, our members need consistent telehealth policies around the country so that their workers and their families can enjoy the same company benefits regardless of the state in which they live or work. ERIC is striving to promote uniformity of telehealth rules around the country and to remove barriers that impede the efficient and effective delivery of health care.

As ERIC pursues barrier-free access to telehealth services in the states, we welcome changes in Medicare policy that similarly increase access to and use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring. Medicare's increased support of telehealth signals a recognition of the benefits and opportunities associated with telehealth, including cost savings and quality care.

ERIC is pleased to support the CONNECT for Health Act, as we believe this bill will reduce barriers to telehealth and increase access to telehealth services.

We look forward to supporting your efforts on this very important issue for large employers, their employees, families and retirees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Guarisco Fildes".

Annette Guarisco Fildes  
President & CEO  
The ERISA Industry Committee