



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Michelle Steel  
United States House of Representatives  
1127 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee  
United States House of Representatives  
365 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
United States House of Representatives  
300 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Steel, Lee, Smith, and Schneider,

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), thank you for introducing the *Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023* to expand first-dollar coverage of telehealth services for employees enrolled in a high deductible health plan (HDHP) coupled with a health savings account (HSA). We appreciate your continued leadership and support for expanding access to telehealth services in the employment-based health coverage market.

ERIC exclusively represents the largest employers in the United States in their capacity as sponsors of employee benefit plans for their nationwide workforces. ERIC's member companies voluntarily provide benefits that cover millions of active and retired workers and their families across the country. With member companies that are leaders in every sector of the economy, ERIC is the voice of large employer plan sponsors on federal, state, and local public policies impacting their ability to sponsor benefit plans and to lawfully operate under ERISA's protection from a patchwork of different and conflicting state and local laws, in addition to federal law.

ERIC member companies strongly support coverage of telehealth as a means by which employees may choose to access timely, efficient health care. Nearly every ERIC member company offers comprehensive telehealth benefits, and did so long before the COVID pandemic, but outdated regulations remained obstacles to greater usage. However, we have seen utilization increase as most member companies expanded access when first-dollar coverage of telehealth services became permissible pursuant to the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) and subsequently extended through 2024. Given the tremendous growth in use of telehealth among patients, ERIC applauds your effort to make this policy permanent, ensuring continued access to health care for millions of hardworking Americans.

Telehealth enables employees to obtain the care they need, when and where they need it, affordably and conveniently. It reduces the need to leave home or work, provides a solution for individuals with limited mobility or access to transportation, and has the potential to address provider shortages, especially related to mental health. ERIC supports your legislation as it will reduce barriers to care and increase access to telehealth services. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill providing large employers, and their employees, retirees, and families with the permanent fix to ensure improved choice and competition in health care.

Sincerely,