

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244


Dear Administrator Verma,

In response to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus), both chambers of Congress passed H.R. 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020. Not only did this emergency supplemental approve \$8.3 billion to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, but it authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive certain Medicare telemedicine geographic restrictions during the coronavirus public health emergency response. This waiver would allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive care via telemedicine in their homes and ensure that people get the necessary services they need while maintaining the health and safety of the public's.

In an effort to contain the spread of coronavirus, it is essential to ensure the ability to perform telemedicine services does not rest solely with Medicare, but also with Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Combined, these programs serve over 71 million Americans.¹ Medicaid and CHIP must have the ability and support they need to provide telemedicine services during the coronavirus pandemic.

States already have the ability to authorize such services, although many have yet to do so. We write to urge you to encourage each state to cover all telemedicine services and work with them to expand their capability to do so. We need to ensure that everyone remain safe during this emergency and are also able to get any and all health care services they need when they need it.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html>