



July 24, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

Caravan Health and its partners strongly support S. 3951, the Increasing Rural Health Access During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act. We urge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to quickly approve this important legislation. Caravan Health and its partner health providers are committed to increasing patients' access to high-quality, cost-efficient care. Since its creation, Caravan Health has helped over 250 health systems thrive in accountable care organizations to ensure better outcomes for patients every day. Unfortunately, this remains a challenge in rural areas, where there are continued barriers to care and poorer health outcomes that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 3951 will provide critical resources to rural health care providers to facilitate remote patient monitoring technology to maintain and expand access to services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. We applaud the work Congress has already done to expand telehealth services and flexibilities during the pandemic. This rapid expansion has created important opportunities for providers to continue offering safe, engaging care to our most complex and at-risk patients, while allowing them continued access to their primary care providers during the ongoing crisis. However, more resources are needed to ensure that rural providers can offer these critical remote services.

Rural providers are often the sole source of care within and around a community. Providers in rural and underserved communities also treat more challenging patient populations. For example, individuals who live in rural areas have higher rates of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, which require regular monitoring. These populations are also at a higher risk for COVID-19.

For many rural providers, the technology needed to conduct remote patient monitoring can be cost prohibitive. The Virtual Health Pilot Program Grants established by S. 3951 will help these providers cover the costs of developing and delivering remote patient monitoring services, acquiring the necessary equipment including computer hardware and software, audio and video equipment, and data terminal equipment, and providing for transmission of medical data and maintenance of equipment. We urge you to quickly approve this important legislation and thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening rural health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Gronniger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Gronniger
CEO and President
Caravan Health



On behalf of:

Baraga County Memorial Hospital, L'Anse, MI
Barrett Hospital Corporation, Dillon, MT
Blessing Health System, Quincy, IL
Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance, NE
Callaway District Hospital, Callaway, NE
Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center, Hoopeston, IL
Carle Hospital Foundation, Urbana, IL
Carle Richland Memorial Hospital, Olney, IL
Central Montana Medical, Lewistown, MT
Chambers Health, Anahuac, TX
Clark Fork Valley Hospital, Plains, MT
Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinic, Orofino, ID
Coal Country Community Health Center, Beulah, ND
Community Memorial Hospital, Cloquet, MN
Community Memorial Hospital, Hamilton, NY
Confluence Health, WA
Dorminy Medical Center, Fitzgerald, GA
Emanuel Medical Center, Swainsboro, GA
Fairfield Memorial Hospital, Fairfield, IL
First Care Health Center, Park River, ND
Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital, Glasgow, MT
Great Plains Health, North Platte, NE
Hospital Authority of Miller County,
Irwin County Hospital, Ocilla, GA
LaBonte Medical Group, St. Louis, MO
Lost Rivers Medical Center, Arco, ID

Madison Healthcare Services, Madison, MN
Mammoth Hospital, Mammoth Lakes, CA
Mankato Clinic, Mankato, MN
Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Hamilton, MT
McFarland Clinic, Ames, IA
McKenzie Health System, Sandusky, MI
Memorial Community Health, Aurora, NE
Memorial Community Hospital & Health System, Blair, NE
Michigan Center for Rural Health, East Lansing, MI
Minidoka Memorial Hospital, Rupert, ID
Nor Lea Hospital, Lovington, NM
North Bend Medical Center, Coos Bay, OR
Presentation Medical Center, Rolla, ND
Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin, MN
Sakakawea Medical Center, Hazen, ND
Scotland County Hospital, Memphis, MO
Sidney Health Center Sidney, MT
St. Luke Community Healthcare, Ronan, MT
St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley, IL
St. Mary's Hospital, Cottonwood, ID
Star Valley Health, Afton, Wyoming
Stratum Med, Champaign, IL
Titus Regional Medical Center, Mt. Pleasant, TX
Washington County Regional Medical Center, Sandersville, GA
Wilderness Health, Two Harbors, MN
Winona Health, Winona, MN



July 24, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

Caravan Health and its partners strongly support H.R. 7190, the Increasing Rural Health Access During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act. We urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to quickly approve this important legislation. Caravan Health and its partner health providers are committed to increasing patients' access to high-quality, cost-efficient care. Since its creation, Caravan Health has helped over 250 health systems thrive in accountable care organizations to ensure better outcomes for patients every day. Unfortunately, this remains a challenge in rural areas, where there are continued barriers to care and poorer health outcomes that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.R. 7190 will provide critical resources to rural health care providers to facilitate remote patient monitoring technology to maintain and expand access to services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. We applaud the work Congress has already done to expand telehealth services and flexibilities during the pandemic. This rapid expansion has created important opportunities for providers to continue offering safe, engaging care to our most complex and at-risk patients, while allowing them continued access to their primary care providers during the ongoing crisis. However, more resources are needed to ensure that rural providers can offer these critical remote services.

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For many rural providers, the technology needed to conduct remote patient monitoring can be cost prohibitive. The Virtual Health Pilot Program Grants established by H.R. 7190 will help these providers cover the costs of developing and delivering remote patient monitoring services, acquiring the necessary equipment including computer hardware and software, audio and video equipment, and data terminal equipment, and providing for transmission of medical data and maintenance of equipment. We urge you to quickly approve this important legislation and thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening rural health care.

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Tim Gronniger
CEO and President
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