



September 15, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives (AAOE) writes in support of legislative efforts to expand health care access and make it easier for Medicare beneficiaries to access telehealth services. In particular, we write in support of the *Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act* (HR4040) which would expand and ensure access to telehealth services for millions of Americans under Medicare until at least December 31, 2024. The bill passed in the House of Representatives on July 27, and we urge you and your Senate Finance Committee colleagues to move forward on HR4040.

AAOE represents over 1,300 members and 660 medical practices across the country whose mission is to promote quality healthcare practice management in the orthopedic and musculoskeletal industry. As you know, Congress authorized flexibilities for Medicare under the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (HR6074) to cover telehealth services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. It is essential these flexibilities, including waivers of geographic telehealth restrictions and expanding originating sites, expanding the list of covered providers, and expanding coverage of audio-only telehealth services be extended to allow continued access for beneficiaries. Extension of telehealth flexibilities is vital to meet the growing need for a variety of health care services.

During the pandemic, Medicare beneficiaries' access to telehealth services was expanded safely, helping to support health and wellness nationwide. This legislation serves as an important milestone for expanding telehealth services to more people in rural, urban, and other underserved communities and AAOE strongly encourages your Committee and all Members to support the



Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act. AAOE stands ready to provide support for this legislation and provide guidance on its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Behr, MD, MBA'.

Michael Behr, MD, MBA
Medical Director, OrthoAtlanta
2022 – 2023 President, American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives