



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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October 15, 2021

The Honorable Dean Phillips  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Phillips and Chabot,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), I wish to express our support for H.R. 4480 the "Telehealth Coverage and Payment Parity Act." We applaud your incredible efforts to increase patient access to critical health care services.

The COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) led to significant growth in the use of telehealth services among surgical specialties, including orthopaedics. Policy changes enacted to temporarily remove many barriers to access for telemedicine during the PHE contributed to this growth and are detrimentally set to expire at the end of the PHE. Continued access to telehealth services is a critical component to orthopaedic patients, many of whom face mobility issues that make it difficult to see their doctor in person for diagnoses that can be easily delivered via telehealth.

AAOS believes many of the temporary telehealth waivers granted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services during the PHE should be permanently codified into law including payment-parity, the removal of any location or geographic-site restrictions, the allowance of audio-only visits within Medicare, and the 60% increase in the number of telehealth services covered by Medicare.

Continued access to telehealth services is a critical component for a significant number of patients, especially for patients of limited means for whom traveling to a physical location for an appointment is an unnecessary burden. I thank you for your leadership and introduction of the Telehealth Coverage and Payment Parity Act. AAOS appreciates and recognizes your substantial efforts to advance this critical policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. D'Amico".

Daniel K. Guy, MD, FAAOS  
President, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

cc: Felix H. Savoie, III, MD, FAAOS, AAOS First Vice-President  
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