



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Scott, Senator Schatz, and Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, we wish to express our support for the “Telehealth Modernization Act.” This legislation would enable health care professionals to continue delivering quality telehealth care beyond the public emergency.

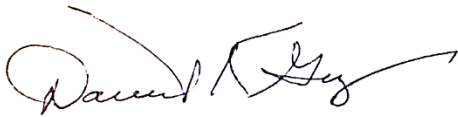
The COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) led to significant growth in the use of telehealth services among surgical specialties, including orthopaedics. Policy changes enacted to temporarily remove many barriers to access for telemedicine during the PHE contributed to this growth. These policies are 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 is particularly supportive of provisions within the Telehealth Modernization Act which will permanently end Medicare’s geographic and origination site requirements. AAOS believes that telemedicine services provided through Medicare should not be limited to those in rural areas or those traveling to approved origination sites. Burdensome requirements on patients or health care professionals will only lessen the clinical benefit of these services and reduce access to care. We are also pleased by provisions within the bill which will allow for more services to be covered through telehealth by granting the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to retain and modify the currently expanded list of covered services.

I thank you for your leadership and introduction of the Telehealth Modernization Act to

ensure Medicare beneficiaries do not lose critical access to telehealth services following the expiration of the COVID-19 PHE. AAOS appreciates and recognizes your substantial efforts to advance this critical policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel K. Guy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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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