

September 10, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders,

Thank you for your leadership in expanding access to virtual care. We are writing today to request your help in ensuring ongoing access to virtual prescribing for patients and providers. We anticipate that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will dramatically limit virtual prescribing, either through new regulations or by allowing the existing flexibilities to expire. We are asking Congress to intervene before millions of American lose access to critically important treatment. We urge you to include, in the end-of-year legislative package, a two-year extension of prescribing flexibilities.

Congress passed the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act in 2008, which requires the DEA, in conjunction with HHS, to promulgate permanent rules to allow practitioners to prescribe certain controlled medications via telehealth through a special registration pathway. As of today, the agency still had not done so. In the advent of the Public Health Emergency, the DEA allowed DEA-registered practitioners to issue prescriptions for certain controlled substances to patients via telemedicine without requiring an in-person medical evaluation. These flexibilities have been a lifeline for countless individuals across the country, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential mental health care, substance use treatment, end-of-life care, and many other crucial treatments during a time when in-person visits were impossible or unsafe.

The ongoing challenges in accessing mental health and substance use treatment services, particularly in rural and underserved areas, underscore the importance of maintaining these flexibilities. More than half of U.S. counties [do not](#) have a psychiatrist. The shortage is even more prominent in rural areas, with [nearly three quarters](#) of rural counties lacking a psychiatrist. Telemedicine has proven to be an effective tool in bridging the gap between patients and providers, reducing barriers to care, and supporting those most in need. At its pandemic peak, telehealth [represented](#) 40% of mental health and substance use outpatient visits, and still remains strong, representing 36% of outpatient visits currently.

Given the widespread provider shortage across medical professions and specialties, this flexibility has been essential in ensuring that patients receive timely and necessary care. Continuing these practices is vital to sustaining access to treatment and addressing the ongoing healthcare challenges in underserved areas.

Given how late we are in the year and with the waiver expiring on December 31, there is very little time left for the DEA to release a draft rule for public comment, close the comment period, review the substantive feedback, and finalize the rule in time for the end of the year. Nearly 40,000 comments were submitted last year when the DEA first attempted to draft rules for a permanent framework on remote prescribing of controlled substances.

Given the success and positive clinical outcomes associated with the prescribing flexibility, **the undersigned organizations request that Congress extend these prescribing flexibilities for two years.** An extension would avert patient harm of the ending flexibilities while giving us all more time to come to consensus about the best way to balance access and enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to any signer of this letter for additional information and context.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Connected Care  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Telemedicine Association  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
ATA Action  
Children's Hospital Association  
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)  
Connected Health Initiative  
Consumer Technology Association  
Convenient Care Association  
Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)  
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value  
Floridians for Accountability in Health Care, Inc.  
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)  
LeadingAge  
Medical Group Management Association  
Minnesota Hospital Association  
National Alliance for Care at Home  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
National Rural Health Association  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
Partnership for Employer Sponsored Coverage  
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care  
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health  
Premier Inc.  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
South Carolina HIMSS  
tMED - The Massachusetts Telemedicine Coalition  
AiArthritis (Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis)  
Alliance for Aging Research  
ALS Association  
Avery's Hope  
BDSRA Foundation  
CACNA1A Foundation  
Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)

Child Neurology Foundation  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
Compassion & Choices  
CSNK2B Foundation  
Cure GABA-A  
Danny Did Foundation  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Dup15q Alliance  
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)  
Epilepsy Alliance America  
Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana  
Epilepsy Foundation  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Friends of Parkinson's  
GABA-A Alliance  
Gaucher Community Alliance  
GRIN2B Foundation  
Hope for HIE  
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Kohnling, Inc.  
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
My Kool Brother  
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health  
Nixon Gwilt Law  
NORSE Institute  
Palmetto Care Connections  
PAN Foundation  
Pandemic Patients  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN)  
STXBP1 Foundation  
SynGAP Research Fund - DBA curesyngap1  
The Cute Syndrome Foundation  
The FamilieSCN2A Foundation  
The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Rory Belle Foundation  
The Sturge-Weber Foundation  
The Trevor Project

TSC Alliance  
YWHAG Research Foundation  
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium  
RASopathies Network  
Ace Mentality  
Advanced Practice Psychiatry  
Alex Petrino Counseling & Consulting LLC  
Alliance Mental Health  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of PAs  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists  
American College of Physicians  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Urological Association  
Anderson Medical Services  
Anderson Mental Health Services LLC  
Aragon Mental Health, LLC  
At Your Service Psychiatry, PLLC  
Authentigo Health, PLLC  
Avel eCare  
Balanced Innovative Care  
Bard College Health Services  
Betterlifemws  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Billings Clinic  
Birch Grove Mental Health  
Boston Behavioral Health Associates INC.  
Broad Mountain Holistic Mental Health Services  
Capitol Hill Medical  
Care Simplified PLLC  
Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center  
Center of Attention Mental Health Services  
Centerstone  
Chesapeake Psychological Associates  
Children's Nebraska  
Children's Hospital New Orleans  
ChristianaCare  
Circle Medical

Cleveland Clinic  
Cohesive Health and Wellness  
Collaborative Physician Partners, LLC  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Compass Psychiatric Wellness  
Complete Behavioral Health, PLLC  
Craig Hospital  
Current Mind Care  
Different MHP, PC  
Dr Sun Psychiatry, LLC  
Duke Health  
Eleanor Health  
Embolden You LLC  
Emory  
Encounter Telehealth, Inc  
Envision Elite Wellness PLLC  
Epilepsy Foundation Texas  
Essentia Health  
Evolution Health  
Evolve Mental Health P.C.  
Fermata  
Frontier Psychiatry, Inc.  
Guide To Wellness PA LLC  
Hadi Shah MD Inc  
Harmony & Unity Mental Health  
Health Care Advocates International  
Heartland Alliance Health  
Hive Mental Health  
Holistic Medical Care Clinic LLC  
Hope Mental Health  
HouseCallMD LLC  
IMPOWER  
IN HARMONY WELLNESS  
Integrated Telehealth Partners  
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine  
Kate Mageau Counseling LLC  
Kelley-Ross Pharmacies Gender Affirming Care Program  
Kristina Casel Mental Health  
Lifepoint Health  
Loma Linda University Health  
LT Telehealth/LocumTenens.com  
Mae Mental Wellness  
Magnolia Therapeutics  
marina medical group, inc.

Mass General Brigham  
Melissa Prince Canp endocrinology  
Mente Behavioral Health  
Mindful Intentions, LLC  
National Association of Epilepsy Centers  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National League for Nursing  
National Mental Health  
Nicklaus Children's Health System  
NIM Longevity  
Northwell Health  
Northwest Telepsychiatry  
Ophelia  
Paragon Behavioral Health  
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine  
Peak Mental Health LLC  
Pivot Behavioral Health LLC  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
Precision Compounding Pharmacy  
Psychboston  
Psychiatric Medical Practitioners, Inc.  
Psychiatric Solutions LLC  
QMed, LLC  
QueerDoc  
Renewed Outlook Holistic Mental Health and Wellness LLC  
Rogo Healthcare Services, Inc  
Sandpiper Wellness, LLC  
Sanford Health  
Shadow Mountain Mental Health  
Specialist Telemed  
Spectrum: The Other Clinic  
Spring Forest Counseling & Wellness at Red Cedar  
SSM Health  
Stanford Medicine  
Still Waters Psychiatry PLLC  
Synchronous Mental Health  
Tandem Telehealth Medical Group  
Telecare Anywhere  
Texas Health Resources  
The Center for Discovery, inc.  
The Taylor-Austin Group, LLC  
TimberNorth Mental Health  
Transcendental Wellness, PLLC  
Transformative Healthcare

Tufts University  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
University of Michigan Health  
University of Mississippi Medical Center Center for Telehealth  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System  
URAC  
UVA Health  
UW Medicine  
VA Hospital  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Vida Telehealth  
Virtually CALM, LLC  
Vizient, Inc.  
Ward Group, LLC.  
Washington State Psychiatric Association  
Welliti  
Williamson Health and Wellness Center  
Winston Center  
Workit Health  
Yale New Haven Health System  
Yale School of Medicine  
Access TeleCare  
Advance Into Wellness  
Advanced Care Basic, LLC  
AGMP Telehealth  
Amazon  
American TelePhysicians  
Anew Outlook Health, PLLC  
Arrow Health  
AsyncHealth Inc  
Behavioral Health Tech  
Bicycle Health  
Blue Sea Mental Health LLC  
Boulder Care  
Brave Health  
Brightline, Inc.  
Brownlee Health  
Caregility  
CirrusMD  
Compassion Recovery Centers  
Deerbrook Counseling  
DOGTOWN MEDIA LLC  
DoseSpot  
Down East Psychiatry

ELEVATE HEALTH AND WELLNESS LLC  
Empower Pharmacy  
Evergreen Psychiatric Services PLLC  
Excel Medical  
FOLX Health  
Fountain Vitality, Inc  
GenieMD, Corp  
Half Full Psychiatry LLC  
Harmony Mental Health  
Hawley Psychiayric PLLC  
Heron Mental Health  
Hims & Hers Health, Inc.  
Homeward Health Inc.  
Hone Health  
Human RX Wellness LLC  
Included Health, Inc.  
Innovatel Telepsychiatry, LLC  
InSite Health  
Jasper Health LLC  
KeyCare Medical Group  
LifeMD, Inc.  
LMA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
Logan Wellness Advanced Nursing Practice Corp.  
Marek Health  
Meds.com  
Mend VIP, Inc.  
Midi Health  
Mind Revive Psychiatry LLC  
Moving Mountains - Mental Health & Recovery, PLLC  
Nest Collaborative  
NextGen Healthcare  
Noma Therapy  
OCHIN  
Optimal Hormones & Wellness  
Ovum Health  
Parisi Psychiatry and Wellness  
Pelago  
Physician Assistants In Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine  
Plume Clinic  
Psychiatric Medical Care  
PursueCare  
Qbtech, Inc.,  
Quartet Health, Inc.  
Resolve Psychiatric Services



Ro  
Rocket Doctor  
RxHomeTest  
Shock Therapy Group  
Sovato  
Taconic Psychiatry  
Tailor Made Compounding  
Talkiatry  
Talking Twenties  
TECHMEDO  
Telehealth Services USA PC  
Telehealthdocs Medical Group  
TeleMed2U  
The Dream of Health LLC  
The Global Telemedicine Group  
TheraTec, Inc  
TruBridge  
True North Psychiatry  
True U Clinic  
VeeOne Health  
VerifiNow Inc  
ViTel Net  
WeKonnnect, LLC  
With You Medical  
YesPsych LLC  
Your Best Self Behavioral Health  
Zane Networks LLC

CC: Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Energy & Commerce Committee

CC: Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee

CC: Chairman Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

CC: Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler, Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

CC: Chairman Hal Rodgers, Subcommittee Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee

CC: Ranking Member Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee