

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Scott and Schatz:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes in support of the Telehealth Modernization Act (S.368).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has provided a critical way for patients to continue to access needed care. We greatly appreciate the waiver authority Congress granted during the public health emergency (PHE), as these resulted in flexibilities that have allowed hospitals and health systems to care for patients in the comfort and safety of their own homes. We strongly support that this legislation would remove originating and geographic site restrictions, which would allow patients to access telehealth from their homes and for patients in both rural and urban areas to receive needed services. This legislation also would make permanent the ability of Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to provide telehealth services, as included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. We appreciate that the legislation would improve access to telehealth services by expanding the types of providers that can offer telehealth services, as well as the types of services covered by Medicare.

We appreciate your strong leadership on this important issue and look forward to working together to ensure passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

