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February 13, 2017

The Honorable Brett Lindstrom
Chair
Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee
Nebraska Legislature
Room #1402
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chair Lindstrom:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing to express our **support of Legislative Bill 92**, which would allow coverage of and reimbursement for telemedicine services provided to Nebraska's patients.

Telemedicine, a key innovation in support of health care delivery reform, is being used in initiatives to improve access to care, care coordination and quality, as well as to reduce the rate of growth in health care spending. The AMA supports policies that more broadly encourage the delivery of telemedicine, allowing physicians to more easily and readily connect their patients to consultations and other services through a telecommunications device.

While many physicians welcome the opportunity to furnish telemedicine services to their patients, reimbursement remains a primary obstacle to adoption of these technologies. Public and private payers have continued to develop formal mechanisms to pay for telemedicine services, yet inconsistencies remain that create barriers to the further adoption of telemedicine. The AMA appreciates the Nebraska Legislature's efforts to break down these barriers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, LLM, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Nebraska Medical Association