



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org
t (312) 464-5000

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Frank Kotowski
Chair
Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Kotowski:

On behalf of the American Medical Association and our physician and student members, I am writing to express our **support of House Bill (H.B.) 1471**, which would clarify coverage and reimbursement requirements for telemedicine services provided to New Hampshire'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 encourage the adoption of telemedicine, allowing physicians to more easily and readily connect to their patients for consultations and other services.

While many physicians welcome the opportunity to treat their patients via telemedicine, reimbursement remains a primary obstacle to adoption of this technology. As a recent study¹ of telehealth private payer laws demonstrates, clear language in support of telemedicine reimbursement—such as the language contained in H.B. 1471—is essential to ensure that telemedicine-delivered health care reaches its full promise. The AMA appreciates the New Hampshire 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 style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: New Hampshire Medical Society

¹ Center for Connected Health Policy. Telehealth Private Payer Laws: Impact and Issues. 2017. Available at www.milbank.org/publications/telehealth-private-payer-laws-impact-issues.