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August 24, 2020

The Honorable Pamela Hunter  
Chair  
The Honorable Deborah Ferguson  
Vice Chair  
National Council of Insurance Legislators  
Health Insurance & Long-Term Care  
Issues Committee  
2317 Route 34 S, Suite 2B  
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Re: AMA Support for NCOIL Development of Telemedicine Model Bill

Dear Chairwoman Hunter and Vice Chairwoman Ferguson:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I write to state our support for the development of a telemedicine model bill by the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL).

The AMA would welcome the opportunity to engage with NCOIL, and specifically the Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Issues Committee (the Committee), on such a timely effort when the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing stakeholders to realize the value of care provided via telehealth. For example:

- Telemedicine is allowing patients, especially those vulnerable to COVID-19 complications, to continue accessing care safely and continuously with their physicians;
- Telemedicine is helping many physicians maintain their practice operations and retain their staff during stay-at-home orders and when providing in-person care is not safe or feasible; and
- Telemedicine is proving to be an important tool in addressing long-standing health inequities, although more work remains to ensure access for patients in areas lacking broadband and access to technology.

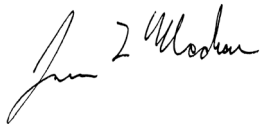
The AMA has been heavily engaged with state medical societies and state policymakers for many years on this issue, but never so intensely as since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you consider the scope of your model bill, we offer the attached issue brief as an outline of our priorities in light of COVID-19 and the gains we hope to see post-pandemic.

As you will see, our priorities are focused largely on advancing telemedicine not as a replacement for offering in-person care, but as a valuable supplement when clinically appropriate. Telemedicine has the ability to improve coordination of care, ensure that vulnerable populations have access to their physicians and providers and to create efficiencies in the health care system that come with expanding the means by which care can be provided.

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The AMA is ready to work with the Committee to advance telemedicine policy reforms that promote patient access to quality care and capitalize on the important investments and advancements that have been made by physicians and other providers during the pandemic. Please contact Emily Carroll, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center at [emily.carroll@ama-assn.org](mailto:emily.carroll@ama-assn.org) or Kimberly Horvath, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center at [kimberly.horvath@ama-assn.org](mailto:kimberly.horvath@ama-assn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

Attachment