



March 4, 2022

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1716 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1707 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2202 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Miller-Meeks, Kelly and Griffith:

On behalf of Nemours Children's Health, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on your recent request for stakeholder input on the expansion of telemedicine and digital modernization efforts in the U.S. healthcare system. We appreciate your leadership on these critical issues and your continued commitment to improving access to telehealth supports and services. **As you consider policies and program improvements in telehealth, we urge you to reflect on the unique needs of children and their families and provide tailored approaches to promote and expand telehealth access to the pediatric population, especially those in underserved communities.**

#### **ABOUT NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH**

Nemours Children's Health is one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, which includes two free-standing children's hospitals and a network of nearly 75 primary and specialty care practices. Nemours seeks to transform the health of children by adopting a holistic health model that utilizes innovative, safe, and high-quality care while also caring for the health



across all our specialties, experiencing over a 700% increase in visit volume compared to pre-pandemic volumes. The flexibilities provided during the pandemic have helped our doctors and patients work together to avoid negative consequences of delayed care, whether preventive, routine or chronic.

Waivers, such as expanding what are considered covered sites of service for telehealth, have allowed our patients to access care via telehealth in their own homes, enabling continuity of care. Additionally, allowing audio-only visits to be reimbursable has been beneficial to our patients, some of whom could not access video. For example, audio-



We encourage Congress to consider a pilot to allow schools and early care and education centers,

receive appropriate care by either providing telehealth access to a clinician or directing families to the most appropriate in-person care setting.

**Nemours Children's encourages Congress to pass the following legislation which would increase a**

Children's Hospital Association (CHA) has noted that the shortages in the mental health workforce are projected to increase over time with severe shortages in pediatric specialties. The telehealth flexibilities have enabled Nemours Children's to ensure that we have the necessary

sources like PubMed and could aggregate relevant external sources of data that may be useful to health care providers and patients.

## CONCLUSION

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*Rosalia Natali*