



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

1090 Vermont Ave, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006-4949 | ph (202) 414-0140 | (800) 962-9008 | www.osteopathic.org

May 17, 2017

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

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schatz, Wicker, Cochran, Cardin, Thune, and Warner:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the "Clinical Opportunities for Novel and Necessary Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act." We applaud your leadership and strongly support your efforts to promote cost savings and quality care under the Medicare program through the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) services.

Osteopathic physicians focus on prevention by gaining a deeper understanding of our patient's lifestyles and environment. Partnering with our patients in their care is at the heart of our whole-person, collaborative approach to medicine. This legislation will provide greater access to care and improve care management by permitting the use of RPM for patients with chronic conditions, and would expand the definition of originating sites to include telestroke evaluation and management sites, Native American health service facilities, and dialysis facilities for home dialysis patients for patients with end-stage renal disease.

Telehealth and telemedicine represents an opportunity to better serve patients, especially for patients for those who need care in rural and underserved communities.

The AOA applauds your ongoing efforts to offer pragmatic reforms to federal telemedicine policies. We are eager to promote this legislation, which helps achieve our mutual goal of providing timely access to health services for the Medicare beneficiaries our physicians serve. Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO,
President