

June 26, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone,

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA®) writes in support of the *Telehealth Modernization Act* (H.R. 7623) and *PREVENT DIABETES Act* (H.R. 7856). We thank the Committee for consideration of these important bills that will help expand access to care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

As North America's largest technology trade association, CTA is the tech sector. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands – helping support more than 18 million American jobs. CTA owns and produces CES® – the most powerful tech event in the world. CTA is the trade association representing more than 1300 companies in the U.S. technology industry. Eighty percent of CTA companies are small businesses and startups; others are among the world's best-known brands. We provide members with policy advocacy, market research, technical education and standards development.

CTA's Health Division strives to increase the use of technology-enabled value-based health care to reduce health care costs and drive better health outcomes. The Division, which is made up of cutting edge small and large companies in the health care and technology sectors, including telehealth and personal health wearable companies, health care payers, health systems and biopharmaceutical innovators, provides policy advocacy, health care market research and standards initiatives that advance the appropriate use of consumer technologies in the health care context.

#### **Telehealth Modernization Act**

CTA appreciates the leadership of Congressman Carter and Congresswoman Blunt Rochester in sponsoring legislation to extend Medicare telehealth flexibilities. Without Congressional action, telehealth services in the Medicare program would be severely limited. Since Congress first removed statutory barriers to the use of telehealth in the Medicare program, beneficiaries have come to rely on telehealth to access high-quality care and providers have made significant investments to deliver services via telehealth. During the beginning of the pandemic, the Medicare program saw a 63-fold

increase in Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary telehealth visits in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Though telehealth utilization has decreased since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still significantly higher than pre-pandemic utilization – 12 percent of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries had a telehealth service in the third quarter of 2023.<sup>2</sup>

While we believe a permanent fix is necessary, it is essential that Medicare providers and beneficiaries do not lose access to the telehealth services many have come to rely on to access services since the COVID-19 pandemic. We support the current version of the *Telehealth Modernization Act* that would extend Medicare telehealth flexibilities for two years and encourage the Committee to pass the legislation as it continues work on a permanent solution.

#### **PREVENT DIABETES Act**

CTA also supports the *PREVENT DIABETES Act* (H.R. 7856) and thanks Congresswoman DeGette and Congressman Bilirakis for their leadership on this important issue. The legislation would expand access to the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP), which is an evidence-based lifestyle intervention with the goal of preventing beneficiaries with pre-diabetes from developing type 2 diabetes. While MDPP is beneficial, its uptake in the Medicare program has been hindered by many restrictions, including the prohibition of virtual suppliers of the MDPP. This legislation would expand access by, among other provisions, allowing virtual suppliers of MDPP, which is critical for beneficiaries who live in areas that do not have in-person providers or who face other limitations to in-person participation, such as mobility or transportation challenges. We encourage the Committee to pass this important legislation.

#### **Conclusion**

Thank you for your continued work to expand access to high-quality health care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries who often face statutory restrictions in using digital health tools. We must ensure our most vulnerable are not left behind, and passage of the *Telehealth Modernization Act* (H.R. 7623) and *PREVENT DIABETES Act* (H.R. 7856) is an important step in realizing this goal.

Sincerely,



Gary Shapiro  
CEO  
Consumer Technology Association

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

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<sup>1</sup> <https://telehealth.hhs.gov/research-trends>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid