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Thank you Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, and Ranking Member Antonio for hearing HB 122, the Telehealth Expansion Act. The health community has seen growth in usage of Telehealth services due to both Covid-19 concerns and increased access to technology. This results in improved health outcomes with the convenience of receiving medical services without leaving one's home. A trend has been seen across the nation as doctors, physicians, social workers, and other medical professionals can perform their practice via video conferencing, e-mail or phone calls. Other states have similar legislation in order to keep up to date with the evolving medical systems providers are using. Specifically in Ohio, telemedicine has become so prolific that it is essential to appropriately regulate this service, and furthermore encourage its adoption. We also want to ensure the most vulnerable of our population are protected and receive accommodating health services.

The focus of this bill is to define the practitioners, services, communication types, and reimbursement standards associated with telehealth. This legislation also enables flexibility for services to be rendered across state lines (as other states are able to perform in Ohio), in-person meeting stipulations, and provides guidance for pandemic circumstances.

This bill requires those with a physical or mental disability to be allowed to have a caregiver present with them at the time of receiving in-person services. This is required to alleviate any stress that may be endured while receiving treatment; we have seen issues appear during this pandemic with those with developmental and/or physical disabilities struggling to receive treatment with required assistance during this pandemic.

The bill also specifies that during any declared disaster, epidemic, pandemic, public health emergency, or public safety emergency, every long-term care facility must provide each resident and their family with a video-conference visitation option, if the Governor, the Director of Health, another governmental official or entity, or the long-term care facility itself determines that allowing in-person visits at the facility would create a risk to the health of the facility's residents.

While not everyone is open to receiving medical services over the phone or internet, the services already exist, and must be appropriately regulated. Each medical board in Ohio has already set their own rules regarding what services are allowed to be performed in their respective fields. The state of Ohio needs consistency to ensure those wanting take advantage of telemedicine have the

opportunity to do so, with as much ease as possible. We value the patient and physician relationship and offer the greatest protection to a patient's information, patient's cost, and provide the greatest possible permissions for practitioners to act in their patients best interests within their standard of care.

Thank you Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the senate health Committee. I'd be happy to take any questions at this time.