October 2, 2024

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure Administrator Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue SW Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: Home Reporting of Telehealth Practitioners

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we thank the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for indicating that is working on permanent policy related to telehealth practitioners and requirements related to the reporting of their location at the time of service. We urge CMS to expedite this process, as the lack of clarity on location reporting is preventing many Medicare beneficiaries from receiving care from fully virtual practitioners.

We appreciate the extension through 2025 of regulatory flexibility for telehealth practitioners who offer a telehealth service from their home or another location to report their currently enrolled location. This continuity in the billing of services while offering more flexible care has enabled telehealth to expand provider capacity, supported patient access to after-hours care from their existing clinicians, and has been a determining factor in the decision of many health care practitioners to remain in the workforce. **Unfortunately, the ability to bill a currently enrolled location does not alleviate barriers for virtual-only practitioners without a physical practice location to report other than their homes.** Additionally, there is widespread confusion around current requirements that is hindering access to care.

It is not practical, workable, or safe to require a provider to report their home address as their practice location. Medicare providers should not be compelled to share their personal information, especially when it relates to their home addresses. While we know CMS has made efforts not to release these addresses, they still create a chilling effect on the ability to deliver care from home. In an environment in which threats against healthcare professionals has markedly increased, the safety and privacy of providers must be paramount.

We request CMS leadership in ensuring that telehealth practitioners working from a home-based location do not need to report their private residence to the federal government for purposes of enrollment or billing. Rather, we believe that CMS should work with stakeholders to develop an alternate method of determining location for the purposes of payment that does not require the reporting of a home address. One potential option would be to allow a business address to be reported for purposes of enrollment, and a geographic indicator such as a zip code be reported for payment adjustment by geographic cost and wage index. We respectfully request that CMS, as part of its policymaking in this area, convene a roundtable or a similar effort ensure the experiences of virtual-only practitioners are considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to any signer of this letter for additional information and context.

Sincerely,

Access TeleCare Acorn Health Active Minds Advocate Health AGMP Telehealth Alliance for Connected Care American Academy of Neurology American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation American Academy of Physician Associates American Association of Nurse Practitioners American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics American Society of Hematology American Telemedicine Association Amwell Anderson Medical Services LLC Anderson Mental Health Services LLC Apricity ATA Action Avel eCare Avery's Hope BBennettMD 1 on 1 Virtual Healthcare Bird on a Wire, LLC **Black Pine Counseling Center** Blue Mountain Therapies, LLC. Bold Path Counseling, PLLC BRIAN CUNNINGHAM LLC (dba Winding Trails Therapy) Brightline, Inc. **Brownlee Health** CareBridge Medical Group Casel Mental Health Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) Central Virginia Psychology PLLC Chesapeake Psychological Associates Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder **Clinical Squared Compassion & Choices Connected Health Initiative Convenient Care Association** Creating Compassion. LLC **CSNK2A1** Foundation **CTNNB1** Connect and Cure Curai, Inc. Cure CMD Diabetes & Endocrinology Consultants of Pennsylvania, LLC

Digital Medicine Society (DiMe) Dup15q Alliance Encounter Telehealth, Inc **Epilepsy Foundation Epilepsy Leadership Council** ExamMed **Fairview Health Services** Flexhealth Teletherapy Focus On You Counseling, LLC Forbes Wellness, LLC FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered **GABA-A** Alliance GalenusRx GenieMD, Inc. Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) **Gezunt Health** Gordon Therapy Services LLC **GRIN2B** Foundation **HCU Network America** Healing Branch Wellness Center, LLC HealthFlow LLC Heart Rhythm Society Heartbeat Health Heuplus Homeward Health Inc. Hope for HIE Howerton Counseling, LLC Illuminated Insights Counseling, LLC **IMPOWER** Indiana University Health, Inc. Inova **Integrated Telehealth Partners** Intermountain Health International Foundation for CDKL5 Research Iye Collaborative LLC KCNQ2 Cure Alliance KeyCare Medical Group **KEYS 2 HEALTHY MINDS, PLLC** Kohnling, Inc Language Strides LLC Lighthouse Counseling LMA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Lotus Holistic Therapy Center PLLC Love Psychological & Consulting Services

Mass General Brigham Melanoma Research Foundation Mend VIP, Inc. Merrifield Therapeutic Counseling Services, LLC Mindful oasis LLC Multicultural Counseling & Consulting Ctr. LLC National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National League for Nursing National Treatment and Recovery Nest Collaborative New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. New Vision Counseling Center NextGen Healthcare NIM Longevity Nixon Gwilt Law Noma Therapy Northern Neck Life Consultants, PLLC Northside Medical Professionals Northwell Health NU Vision Counseling and Consulting Services Path of Life Counseling, LLC Peace of Mind Inc Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium Pediatric Gastroenterology of Northern Virginia Pelorus Elder & Behavioral Health Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health Primary Care Development Corporation **Psychiatric Medical Care** Quartet Health, Inc. QuickVisit Urgent Care Rare Epilepsy Network (Ren) Coordinating Committee **Re-architect Health LLC Restorative Rehab Therapy Services Revive Mental Health Solutions LLC Rewild PLLC Richmond Therapeutic Health Services Rockfish Gap Mental Health PLLC** Sage Wellness, LLC Senior Care Clinic House Calls Shameka Clark-Savage Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council Society for Participatory Medicine Soul Guided Healing & Wellness Souther Comfort Psych Services

Spectrum: The Other Clinic Spina Bifida Association Spindle Health Sunrise Mental Health Synchronous Mental Health Talkiatry TECHMEDO TeleMed2U The Speech and Language Center The Sturge-Weber Foundation Therapy Thursdays PLLC TheraTec, Inc Transcarent **Treatment Communities of America** TruPath Counseling LLC **TSC Alliance** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System URAC Virginia Counseling Services Virginia Pediatric Group Virginia Therapeutic Network ViTel Net WeKonnect, LLC. Welliti