



April 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association, I am writing in strong support of SF 2743 regarding access to audio-only telehealth medical services.

Telehealth is a valuable tool that has revolutionized healthcare in recent years. Continued coverage of telehealth services is essential to ensure that Minnesotans have access to high quality healthcare. Without legislative action this session, coverage for audio-only services will expire at on June 30, of this year. The 2024 Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) study into the use and effectiveness of telehealth, make it clear that these services are working well for both patients and providers.

Telehealth is not a replacement for in-person care, but for many services it has been shown to be an effective tool that increases access to care. For those services where telehealth is effective, the ability to provide audio-only coverage is critical. This is particularly important for patients who do not have access to reliable internet or broadband connectivity, low-income patients who may not have access to video-only technology, or patients who are less comfortable using video services. Additionally, audio-only coverage must be available for patients who have visual impairments.

Telehealth services, including audio-only services, provide patients with access to medical treatment regardless of circumstances that would otherwise serve as an obstacle to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on SF 2743.

Sincerely,

Edwin Bogonko, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association