



Senate Committee on Health Care  
Testimony in Support of HB 2508 A-Eng.  
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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With 503,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families, with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

AARP supports HB 2508 A-Eng. During the COVID-19 pandemic, changes made to expand the use of telehealth have proven invaluable to thousands of Oregonians. Telehealth has brought care to patients, rather than having patients travel and put themselves and others at risk for possible exposure. In the future, greater use of telehealth services should continue to increase access to health providers, including specialists, facilitate the sharing of clinical information for evaluation, and allow more older Oregonians to remain in their homes and communities.

In addition, during this time, access to telehealth has helped family members monitor the wellbeing of their loved ones and participate in time-sensitive and critical health care decisions. Telehealth has also benefited family caregivers themselves in countless ways, including reducing the amount of time and money they spend on coordinating care and lowering their stress levels.

There are many features we appreciate, and want to recognize a few of the consumer-oriented protections including:

1. Allows for audio-only telehealth (so people who are not computer savvy or do not have the resources for or access to computer)
2. Allows for "store and forward" or asynchronous telehealth
3. Allows for remote patient monitoring
4. Includes coverage parity: if the insurance plan covers it in person, they must cover it via telehealth (if feasible)
5. Recognizes the needs for those who may not have access to all the latest technology due to disability, advanced age or limited English proficiency.

**DCBS Study:** Section 4 requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to issue a and we recommend it factor in cost savings to consumers and family caregivers in terms of less time spent traveling, less time taken off work, less cost of gas and parking (and so on). We also encourage DCBS to look at the impact of better health outcomes.

For all the reasons above, AARP Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 2508 A-Eng.