

Testimony in Support of HB 3727: Telehealth

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson & Javadi, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am writing in support of HB 3727 so that patients can continue to confer with their doctors when they are out of town.

I have had several incidents where I needed to get advice and/or a referral from my doctor when I was on vacation. Since they were not able to speak with me, it meant that I had to go through a much longer and costlier process, which seemed unnecessary and potentially dangerous if the situation had been life threatening.

My son also occasionally sees his psychiatrist virtually when he just needs a medication refill. A couple of times the appointment has been scheduled when he has been out of town for temporary work. In order for him to meet with his doctor, he has had to drive 2 hours each way, which seems pointless for a virtual appointment. It seems unnecessarily wasteful— of his time and gas – to drive that far when it makes no difference in terms of the appointment. Plus, it means he has to take almost the whole day off work.

I understand why this law was initially put in place, but for longstanding relationships between patients and their doctors, it seems like it is a rule that should be eliminated.

Thank you for your time,

Lee Stewart
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