March 14, 2017

Chair Matt Dean

Health and Human Services Finance Committee

Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: Support for HF 1561

Dear Chair Dean and Committee Members—

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HF 1561 (Hamilton) to allow mental health practitioners to provide telemedicine services and increase the number of medical assistance telemedicine encounters.

I write to you today on behalf of the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association seeks to build healthier lives free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. In order to achieve our mission, we actively support and propose local, state and federal policies that reduce death and disability due to cardiovascular diseases and stroke as well as measures to prevent the leading causes of heart disease and stroke.

Telemedicine is a valuable, cost-effective alternative vehicle for delivering a range of medical services that treat Heart Disease & Stroke, especially to those who are geographically dispersed or experience other barriers to accessing care in a traditional setting. Increasing the allowed number of telemedicine encounters can be crucial to patients who are utilizing telemedicine to recover form a serious cardiovascular event or stroke and require more intense and frequent therapy.

For these reasons, the American Heart Association supports Representative Hamilton’s HF 1561 to modify the current telemedicine statute.

Please feel free to contact me with additional questions.

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