



HF 1412 – Health care service and consultation telehealth coverage modified.

Members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Business Partnership is a membership organization of business leaders from across the state, employing more than half a million workers in Minnesota. Affordable health insurance and access to health care is highly important to our members.

We support the aim of HF 1412 and continue to work with the bill authors and stakeholders. I would like to thank Representative Morrison for her hard work on this legislation. As we have witnessed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, tele-health is an important tool for not only maintaining but improving patient access to health care services.

Patient outcomes are central to health care delivery, whether by tele-health or in-person appointments. Caution needs to be taken in the approach to tele-health to prevent frivolous and fraudulent utilization of health care services. We appreciate that this is a concern of the bill author and the health care community.

Reining-in the escalating cost of health care and health insurance is important for patients, employers, and government. We should take this opportunity to explore ways that tele-health can help reduce the cost of insurance and care. For example, value-based care arrangements have been effective at controlling rising health care costs while improving patient outcomes and we encourage their expanded use where appropriate in the delivery of tele-health services.

Since tele-health was authorized in 2015, we have seen incredible advancements in technology that have led to significantly enhanced remote patient interaction and vast improvements in remote patient monitoring technology. Care in crafting this legislation should continue to be taken as we consider the use of current technology and future technological advancements, with a focus centered on value and patient outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing working on this bill with the author and other stakeholders.

Dan Dwight  
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