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February 25, 2021

Chairman Zack Stephenson House Commerce Committee 477 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Stephenson and House Commerce Committee Members:

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician members across the state, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians strongly supports HF 1412 and the continued expansion of access to health care through ongoing payment parity of telehealth visits.

When the pandemic began, family physicians quickly pivoted to providing video and telephonic care to ensure continued access to medical care for their patients and communities. This access has been vital throughout the pandemic and has demonstrated the important opportunity of telehealth as a primary care tool, serving as a supplement to office-based care--not replace it.

Family physicians also recognize the importance of telephonic visits to ensure equitable access to care for their patients who may not have access to the necessary technology for video visits. Many of our patients either live in areas of the state without strong broadband access or do not have computers, tablets, or smart phones. We must ensure that all patients have access to needed care.

Please support HF 1412. Expanded coverage of telehealth and telephonic visits must continue to ensure equitable care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Andrew Slattengren, DO, FAAFP President

The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) promotes the specialty of family medicine in Minnesota and supports family physicians as they provide high quality, comprehensive and continuous medical care for patients of all ages.