



March 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Senate and House of Representatives,

The Mankato Clinic is one of Minnesota's largest physician owned, multi-specialty practices, with 190 providers across 10 sites in five communities, including Mankato, North Mankato, St. Peter and Mapleton. We employ over 850 people and rank among the top 10 employers in the region.

We are committed to the health of this region and passionate about providing remarkable care to the individuals and families who make this place their home. During the pandemic, our mission to provide effective, quality care included an expansion of our delivery of service through the use of telehealth visits. As such, we are writing you today to express our support for HF 1412 & SF 1610.

We strongly advocate for these health-based services to allow greater flexibility for the delivery of medicine so that we may continue to care for our patients in the Mankato region. There were over 39,500 telehealth visits from April 2020 to present, with an average of 3,500 visits per month, at the Mankato Clinic.

We quickly learned new ways to deliver care amid a pandemic. Telehealth visits offered a way to safely deliver care and services to our patients. In some cases, we were able to see patients with COVID symptoms virtually. In other cases, our most vulnerable patients were able to receive care in the safety of their home. For many families, telehealth visits offered both convenience and safety.

In fact, Dr. Amy Boles, Mankato Clinic Family Medicine, said telehealth visits were a lifeline for our elderly patients who are in long-term care centers. Through telehealth visits, our mental health providers could virtually come into their rooms at a time when many of our elderly had lost the will to live, refusing to eat in some cases.

Mankato Clinic Physicians and Advanced Practice Providers strongly believe that the expansion of telehealth services and parity for reimbursement for those services will be a lasting legacy in healthcare. Telemedicine is beneficial for our patients and their families.

We appreciate your support of HF 1412 and SF 1160. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Farrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Randy Farrow, CEO
Mankato Clinic