



November 16, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Park Steel
U.S. House of Representatives
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Steel:

The Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage writes with our support for the Telehealth Expansion Act of 2021 (H.R. 5981) to permanently expand first-dollar coverage of telehealth services for employees enrolled in a high deductible health plan (HDHP) coupled with a health savings account (HSA). We appreciate your leadership in expanding access to telehealth services in the employment-based health coverage market.

The Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage (www.p4esc.org) is an advocacy alliance of employment-based organizations and trade associations representing businesses of all sizes and the more than 181 million American employees and their families who rely on employer-sponsored coverage every day. We are committed to working to ensure that employer-sponsored coverage is strengthened and remains a viable, affordable option for decades to come. We look forward to working with you to ensure employer-sponsored coverage continues to thrive.

The COVID-19 pandemic created tremendous uncertainty and logistical issues for those seeking care, especially for behavioral and mental health services. Telehealth has served as an essential lifeline to care for millions of Americans during the pandemic. Utilization was bolstered by the provision under the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) which amended the Internal Revenue Service HDHP rules to enable first-dollar coverage of telehealth services through December 31, 2021. H.R. 5981 expands telehealth services to more hardworking Americans and would provide continuity of care beyond 2021.

Again, thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 5981. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in a bipartisan manner to increase employee access to telehealth.

Sincerely,

Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage

For more information, please contact P4ESC's Executive Director Neil Trautwein at eneiltrautwein@gmail.com.