



[Name]

[Title]

[Address]

RE: Washington State's Uniform Telehealth Law Ensures Continuity of Care

Dear [Name],

I am writing to ask that your organization support and advance policy in all 50 states, like that of the **Washington State's recently passed Uniform Telehealth Act, developed by the Uniform Laws Commission with input from the Washington Medical Commission. This law allows clinicians to provide consultation, specialty assessment, and follow-up care to a patient located in Washington State by a provider in good licensure standing in another state under commonly accepted circumstances.**

For patients with rare conditions requiring highly specialized expertise from a select group of clinicians, this expanded access to telehealth is lifesaving. A study from the Advocate Aurora Research Institute found that, even two years after the pandemic began, **telemedicine was still used by more than two-fifths of adult patients nationally¹**, especially among those with greater healthcare needs. This underscores telehealth's role as a critical, ongoing resource—not just a temporary solution.

The Center for Telehealth & e-Health Law (CTeL) strongly supports building on Washington's telehealth policy as a model for long-term, state-level frameworks. By maintaining this expanded access, we can ensure that **patients continue to receive the highest quality care.**

As a **501(c)(3) non-profit research institute**, CTeL is dedicated to advancing the understanding of digital health's legal and regulatory landscape. Through evidence-based research and analysis, we work to inform policy that aligns with the mission of the **Department of Health and Human Services**—to improve the health and well-being of all Americans² by ensuring access to quality, equitable care.

¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2816685>

² <https://www.hhs.gov/about/strategic-plan/2022-2026/introduction/index.html>

Effective in June 2024, [Washington's Uniform Telehealth Act \(SB 5481\)](#) establishes an innovative approach that allows out-of-state clinicians to treat patients in Washington under specific conditions:

1. Clinicians hold a current license or certification required in Washington, or are otherwise authorized, such as through a multistate compact; or,
2. Clinicians hold a valid license in another state and provide telehealth services in the form of:
 - a. Consultations with a Washington-based healthcare practitioner who retains responsibility for diagnosing and treating the patient.
 - b. Specialty assessments, diagnoses, or treatment recommendations.
 - c. Follow-up care to maintain continuity for established patients temporarily located in Washington.

By **recognizing out-of-state licenses, facilitating specialty consultations**, and fostering **continuity of care**, this law strengthens healthcare access across Washington, enabling greater flexibility for providers and supporting the evolving needs of our digital healthcare system. Washington's leadership in telehealth policy ensures that all residents—regardless of geographic location—can benefit from the latest in medical innovation.

We commend Washington's forward-thinking approach and their collaborative efforts with the Uniform Laws Commission in bringing this commonsense solution forward for adoption across all states and jurisdictions. We ask that your organization, a leader of state-based telehealth policy, endorse the Washington Uniform Telehealth Act and encourage your member organizations to adopt similar language to allow for continuity of patient care across state lines via telehealth.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this policy further, please contact **Lydia Homovich, Policy Analyst**, at lydiah@ctel.org.

Sincerely,



Christa Natoli
Executive Director, Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law
www.ctel.org