

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christa Natoli

Executive Director, Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law (CTeL)

Email: info@ctel.org

Phone: [Phone Number]

Website: www.ctel.org

CTeL Urges National and State Organizations to Support Washington State's Telehealth Licensure Policy

Washington, D.C. – [October 2, 2024] – The Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law (CTeL) has taken a proactive step in advocating for improved telehealth access by issuing a letter to key organizations, including the **National Governors Association (NGA)**, **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**, **Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)**, and various **State Medical Associations**. The letter urges these organizations to support and advance telehealth policies modeled after the **Washington State Medical Commission's Uniform Telehealth Act (SB 5481)**, which was enacted in June 2024.

In the letter, **CTeL Executive Director Christa Natoli** emphasized the importance of expanding access to telehealth services across state lines, allowing clinicians with valid out-of-state licenses to provide consultations, specialty assessments, and follow-up care for patients in Washington State. The letter highlights the law's critical role in ensuring **continuity of care** and enhancing **healthcare access**, especially for patients with rare conditions who rely on specialized expertise.

"This legislation serves as a model for the nation," Natoli stated. "Washington's Uniform Telehealth Act has set a standard by enabling patients to maintain their relationships with out-of-state specialists and ensure they continue receiving lifesaving care. Adopting similar frameworks in all 50 states will expand access to high-quality healthcare for countless patients."

The letter encourages the recipient organizations to endorse Washington's policy and to work with their member states to implement similar statutes. As telehealth becomes an essential part of the healthcare system, CTeL is advocating for policies that maintain flexibility for providers while protecting patient safety and improving health outcomes.

The **Uniform Telehealth Act** allows out-of-state clinicians to:

- Hold a valid license in another state and provide telehealth services in Washington, including consultations, specialty assessments, and follow-up care.
- Facilitate continuity of care for patients temporarily located in Washington who have an established relationship with an out-of-state healthcare provider.

Natoli expressed that the law's impact extends beyond state borders. "This policy is about giving patients access to the best possible care, wherever they are. Telehealth, when supported by modern licensing frameworks, has the power to break down geographic barriers and reduce healthcare disparities."

CTeL is calling for broad-based support from national and state leaders to build on Washington's leadership, ensuring **telehealth innovations** are protected and expanded across the United States.

About CTeL:

The **Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law (CTeL)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research institute focused on the legal, regulatory, and policy issues surrounding digital health. Through evidence-based research and analysis, CTeL seeks to advance policies that promote access to quality and equitable care through telehealth.

For more information or to request a copy of the letter, please contact **Christa Natoli, Executive Director**, at info@ctel.org or visit www.ctel.org.