



National Association of Social Workers
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October, 4, 2023

House Health Policy Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers - Michigan (NASW-MI), I write to express support for the ensuring Medicaid reimbursement parity for telehealth services, HB 4580.

As the largest membership organization of professional social workers and largest behavioral health profession in Michigan, NASW-Michigan works to enhance the professional growth and development of its 30,000 members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. Integral to that mission is advocating for low-income community members.

Telehealth was originally developed to provide basic care to rural and underserved patients, and higher rates of use of telehealth are now standard in many practices since the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing emphasis on patient satisfaction, providing efficient and quality care, and minimizing costs have also led to higher telehealth implementation.

Patients and providers have enjoyed the benefits of telehealth, but widespread adoption has been hindered by regulatory, legal, and reimbursement barriers. Many social workers have witnessed this first hand in our practice. This legislation will help to create a more just healthcare system that maximizes that ability of each of us to live with dignity and security.

Sincerely,

Melina Brann, LMSW
Director of Policy & Advocacy