



STATE OF UTAH

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GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 19, 2019

The Honorable John Curtis
125 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Curtis,

Thank you for sponsoring the Telehealth Innovation and Improvement Act. It's a thoughtful and common-sense proposal for using effective telehealth models to bring better health care services to underserved areas of Utah.

Rural healthcare is a perennial and serious challenge in Utah. Your bill encourages more healthcare providers and hospitals to launch telehealth programs through the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMI) and calls on CMI to evaluate telehealth models for cost, effectiveness, and improvement in quality of care, and reimburse programs that meet those criteria.

Many of our rural providers are looking to telehealth technology to increase services for mental and behavioral health, substance use disorder, crisis management, oncology, and cardiology. The expansion of these services will not only improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of rural Utah but will also improve the economy in these areas, as potential residents gain access to the benefits of rural areas without losing access to the high-quality healthcare enjoyed by those along the Wasatch front or in other urban areas.

Thank you again for your effective representation in our third district, and please let me know how I can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert
Governor