



VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

March 28, 2017

House Committee on Health Care
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Sent via email to: lstarr@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Support for S. 50, Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine Services

Dear Chairman Lippert and Committee Members:

Thank you for providing the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) the opportunity to show its support for S. 50, Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine Services.

VAHHS represents all of Vermont's not-for-profit hospitals and several health organizations throughout the state. Providing greater access to quality health care is a top priority for our members.

Telemedicine is one way for health care providers to give the right care, at the right time, in the right place. The language in S. 50 states that telehealth services are available to patients outside of the facility setting at no additional cost. This clarification will give providers greater certainty and help expand the service to more patients.

The bill also clarifies the definition of health care provider to include providers such as mental health providers and physical therapists. At a time when there is a health care provider workforce shortage in Vermont, VAHHS supports increasing coverage of telemedicine to the providers included in S. 50.

The changes made through S. 50 is a step in the right direction for providing Vermonters with greater access to quality health care. Thank you for taking up this bill and for considering VAHHS's comments. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Devon Green, Vice President of Government Relations
Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems