February 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries House Minority Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable John Thune Senate Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Senate Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, and Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned stakeholders – representing employers, patient advocates, health care companies, health care providers, consumer groups, and other stakeholders – appreciate Congress' work to respond to the urgent health care needs of our country, especially your efforts to expand access to care and improve affordability by allowing employers and health plans to offer telehealth services pre-deductible. The expanded flexibilities for Health Savings Accounteligible plans, first enacted in 2020 and subsequently extended to the end of 2024, have helped millions of Americans access the care they need.

Regrettably, Congress failed to address this <u>popular</u> provision, which expired at the end of 2024. Employers are now required to charge employees more to access telehealth services, creating a barrier to care, including tele-mental health and other specialty care. The nation's <u>growing</u> mental health crisis demonstrates that Americans need more access to affordable mental and behavioral health services, not less. Importantly, 98% of <u>employers</u> say maintaining this telehealth flexibility would be beneficial for their plans and covered employees and their families, with 72% stating that it would be "important" or "very important."

The more than 300 signatories below urge Congress to immediately pass legislation to make this flexibility permanent retroactive to January 1, 2025. There is bipartisan, bicameral support in Congress to extend the flexibility for plans and employers to offer telehealth predeductible.

## **Telehealth Expands Access to Mental Health Care**

In 2025, 81% of <u>employers</u> intend to offer employees and their dependents access to lower- or no-cost mental health support through their tele-mental health provider. This access is critical to supporting employee and family mental health needs and contributes to the call by nearly all employers to make permanent this important provision. Without permanent flexibility, employees will face higher out-of-pocket costs to access this care, creating another barrier to necessary treatment.

Employers remain committed to the mental health and emotional well-being of their employees and virtual care is a key tool to meet those commitments. In 2023, 74% of <u>large employers</u> named expanding behavioral healthcare access as an important or very important priority for the next three to five years. Employers want to ensure their workers can continue to access these services at no or low costs. In fact, the latest <u>survey</u> data shows two-thirds of employers view virtual health as having a significant impact on health care in the future.

## **Employees Want Continued Access to Telehealth Services**

Employees do not want to lose access to pre-deductible telehealth benefits. In a December 2022 <u>survey</u>, 78% said the flexibility made it easier to seek out needed health care services and 73% said "Congress should make permanent the provisions that allowed for coverage of telehealth services before paying their full deductible."

The <u>support</u> for affordable telehealth and tele-mental health is strong. Allowing employers and health plans to continue offering these important services pre-deductible improves affordability and expands access. We laud the bipartisan cosponsors for their work, and we urge Congress to act now to enact legislation that will make permanent this important flexibility.

Sincerely,

Academy of International Mobile Healthcare Integration (AIMHI) Accolade adidas AHIP Ahold Delhaize USA Services Air Conditioning Contractors of America AlediumHR Alliance for Aging Research Alliance for Connected Care Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy Alliance to Fight for Health Care Alliant Insurance Services Alpha-1 Foundation **ALS** Association AltaMed Health Services Amazon AMC Networks Inc. American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work American Association for Respiratory Care American Benefits Council American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics American Fidelity Corporation American Medical Informatics Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association American Residential Services American Telemedicine Association American Woodmark Amwell Aon Apple Argentum Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness Association of Benefit Administrators Asynchealth Inc AT&T ATA Action Ballad Health Behaivior BenefitsTec Bicycle Health Medical Group Bicycle Health, Inc. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Business Group on Health **Business Roundtable** Caliber California Agents and Health Insurance Professionals (CAHIP) California Health Care Coalition California Schools VEBA Capital One CarMax Caspers Company CC Industries CGS Family Partnership Church of God Benefits Board (Cleveland, TN) Cigna CirrusMD Columbia University Irving Medical Center Compassion & Choices Concordia Plan Services Consumer Health Alliance Consumer Technology Association CopilotIQ Corporate Health Care Coalition Council for Affordable Health Coverage Covington Chamber of Commerce Cox Enterprises, Inc. CPR Financial & Insurance Services, Inc. Crayola LLC Cubic Corporation

Curai, Inc. Cure CMD Deere & Company DFW Business Group on Health DialCare LLC **Dickinson Wright PLLC** DICK'S Sporting Goods, Inc. Digital Medicine Society (DiMe) **Direct Primary Care Coalition** Dogtown Media Doosan Bobcat North America Dorsey & Whitney LLP Dow, Inc. Eagle Telemedicine eBay, Inc. Economic Alliance for Michigan Elevance Health Emmanuel Faith Community Church, Inc. Employers Council on Flexible Compensation (ECFC) Employers' Advanced Cooperative on Healthcare Energy Transfer LP Entergy eVisit Fast DOC LLC **Fidelity Investments** Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value Floridians for Accountability in Health Care, FMI - The Food Industry Association Foley & Lardner LLP FOLX Health Fortune Brands Innovations, Inc. Galileo Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce Geisinger Health System GenieMD Medical Group GenieMD, Inc. Gesundheit Advisors LLC GO2 for Lung Cancer Golden Services, LLC Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health Greif GXO Logistics Services, Inc. Halliburton Haverford College Hazel Health, Inc. Headspace

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One Call One to One Health Optum Tri State Oshi Health Paloma Health PAN Foundation Panera, LLC Parsley Health Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage Partnership to Advance Virtual Care (PAVC) Patriot Rail Company Paul Hastings LLP Pelago Penn State Health Pietzsch Law Group Piper Jordan PMPITeleMed Portico Benefit Services PRA Group, Inc Procter & Gamble Provo City Psychiatric Medical Practitioners, Inc Psychotherapy Action Network Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH) PursueCare **Oualtrics** Quantum Services Group LLC Radish Health Reale Consulting, Inc. Re-architect Health LLC Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association of PA RCPA Retail Industry Leaders Association **Retailers Association of Massachusetts Revive Health** Rezilient Health Rhode Island Business Group on Health Rula Health Rural Hospital Coalition RWE Clean Energy Services, LLC **RxHomeTest** Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc Sanford Health Plan Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce ScionHealth Security Health Plan SHRM

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