



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

1702 Clifton Road Suite 1650
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www.spanationwide.org

November 29, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair
U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, First Street Southeast, Washington, DC 20004

Position Letter: H.R. 5081 Telehealth Modernization Act

Dear Chairman Guthrie and members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of and strongly supports H.R. 5081, which seeks to streamline telehealth accessibility for those on Medicare. This bill would improve healthcare access, lead to cost savings, and bolster rural communities that rely on Medicare at higher rates. Moreover, this would lead to the expansion of a technology that has become a cornerstone of healthcare, improving care for all.

For the reasons listed below, we strongly support this bill and wish for it to succeed.

- **Expands Access in Rural and Underserved Communities:** Rural populations tend to rely on Medicare at higher rates and often have a higher rate of chronic conditions. This bill would help benefit ongoing care coordination. In September of 2025, Bobby Mukkamala, president of the American Medical Association, stated that removing geographic restrictions and allowing rural clinics to conduct their own telehealth services would improve rural healthcare by providing additional options for these constituents. Expanding these safeguards until 2027 provides a clear framework for long-term change.
- **Continued Audio-Only Telehealth Services:** Many beneficiaries, especially older adults, those in areas with limited internet access, and individuals with low digital literacy, are unable to feasibly access video-based platforms. Passing this bill extends this safeguard, leading to the continuation of a lifeline for many people. A 2022 study published in the Journal of Internal Medicine quantifies that roughly 1 in 5 individuals with household incomes under \$25,000, and 3 in 10 individuals aged 80 and over, both major beneficiaries of government-subsidized healthcare systems such as Medicare and Medicaid, would lose access to vital healthcare through audio programs if this bill does not pass. Passing ensures that we explicitly allow these programs with stricter oversight, creating a net benefit in the short term.



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For all of these reasons, SPAN strongly supports H.R. 5081, and we respectfully urge your support for this bill. This bill is a bipartisan, science-based response to patient needs, helping to preserve long-term gains while setting the framework for further regulation and evaluation to inform long-term policy.

Sincerely,

Arnav Goyal

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Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)

Resources:

American Medical Association. *Making Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent Is the Right Call*. 2025. (AMA President Bobby Mukkamala noted that removing geographic limits and extending telehealth flexibilities would significantly improve rural healthcare access.)

Journal of Internal Medicine. *Telemedicine Use and Access Disparities Among Low-Income and Older Adults*. 2022. (1 in 5 low-income adults and 3 in 10 adults aged 80+ would lose essential audio-only healthcare access without continued telehealth flexibilities.)