February 20, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington DC 20530

Dear Ms. Bondi,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we congratulate you on your appointment as the 87th Attorney General of the United States. We applaud your past leadership on mental health care and substance use disorder issues, particularly your work on the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. Given your past leadership on telemedicine access to address these concerns, we write today to bring your attention to an important telemedicine policy that is under the Department of Justice's jurisdiction.

President Trump signed into law the <u>Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act</u>, which called for the safe access to controlled substances through telemedicine. The Biden Administration recently proposed a telehealth rule that does not follow the intent of this law, given that it proposes arbitrary and burdensome restrictions on access to telemedicine. For example, it includes provisions that would limit patient access through requirements that a clinician provide in-person care rather than creating guardrails that more narrowly address the real-world risks of controlled substance diversion. We urge you to rescind the proposed telemedicine regulation, and work with Congress to ensure ongoing access to virtual prescribing for patients and providers of certain controlled substances.

This work is timely, as patients and providers are currently relying on a <u>temporary flexibility</u> for telemedicine that will end on December 31, 2025. It is no question how impactful telehealth has been for improving patient access to care. As you remember, directing federal agencies to revise regulations and reimbursement policies to allow treatment via telemedicine was a top recommendation of <u>President Trump's Commission</u> and evidence shows that <u>telehealth supports retention</u> in treatment for opioid use disorder.

For the last five years, telehealth has also been a crucial tool in providing a wide range of other important health services – particularly for those Americans who live in remote areas and locations with provider shortages. For example, as of December 2023, more than half (169 million) of the U.S. population lives in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and broader access to telehealth has been crucial in creating new access to care for these individuals as well as those with other conditions.

Your leadership is needed to direct the Drug Enforcement Administration to withdraw this telemedicine regulation and work alongside Congress and stakeholders to advance a safe and permanent pathway for patients and practitioners to continue to offer care that relies on the prescribing of a controlled substance before the end of 2025. While we recognize the need for protections against diversion, guardrails on remote medical care must appropriately balance this risk without effectively forcing in-person care.

Congratulations again on your appointment as Attorney General of the United States, and thank you for prioritizing this important policy.

Sincerely,

Access TeleCare

AGMP Telehealth

Alliance for Connected Care

Alliance Mental Health

Alpha-1 Foundation

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association for Respiratory Care

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists

American Health Care Association

American Medical Informatics Association

American Pharmacists Association

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)

American Urological Association

Amwell

Anderson Medical Services

Anderson Mental Health Services

Aragon Mental Health, LLC

Array Behavioral Care

Art Therapy of Fairfield

Ascension

Associated Medical Schools of New York

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

Awaken The Power Therapy, LLC

Beckley Clinical

Big Cities Health Coalition

Bird on a Wire, LLC

Blackbird Health

Brownlee Health PLLC

California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals

CareBridge Medical Group

Center to Advance Palliative Care

Chesapeake Psychological Associates

CirrusMD

CJS Healthcare Advisors

Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP)

Compassion & Choices

Consumer Technology Association

Creating Compassion

CSNK2B Foundation

Cure CMD

Different MHP, PC

Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)

DreamCloud

Essentia Health

Evergreen Psychiatric Services PLLC

Faces & Voices of Recovery

FamilyWell Health

Finding Your Truth Behavioral Health, LLC

Firsthand

Florish Labs

Frontier Psychiatry, Inc.

Gateway Rehabilitation Center

Gilda's Club South Florida

Go 2 Care

Golden Bear Counseling, LLC

Guide to Wellness

Hazel Health

Heartland Alliance Health

HelloAlpha

Heron Mental Health

Hope for HIE

Human Vitality

IC&RC

Illinois Telehealth Network

IMPOWER

Inseparable

Integrated Telehealth Partners

Interconnected knowing

Intermountain Health

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

Kimberly Newcombe Counseling

Kismet Health

KMA Services LLC

Kohnling,Inc.

Language Strides LLC

Layh and Associates

LeadingAge

Life Coaching and Therapy

Little Otter

LMA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Logan Wellness Advanced Nursing Practice Corp.

Lotus Flower Wellness

Mae Mental Wellness

Maine Primary Care Association

Manatee

Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, Inc.

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Midi Health

Miles for Migraine

MindMatters Therapy

Minnesota Hospital Association

Moffitt Cancer Center

Monebo Technologies, Inc

National Alliance for Care at Home

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Behavioral Health Association of Providers

National Center for Assisted Living

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National League for Nursing

Nema Health

Nest Collaborative

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

New Perspective Counseling Services LLC

New York State Academic Dental Centers

NIM LONGEVITY

Noma Therapy

North Dakota Health Information Management Association

Partnership to Advance Virtual Care

Peak Mental Healthcare

Pediatric Gastroenterology of Northern Virginia

Pennsylvania Rural Health Association

Prana Wellness, LLC

Renewed Outlook Holistic Mental Health and Wellness LLC

Resolve Psychiatric Services, PLLC.

Rewild PLLC

RxHomeTest

Shadow Mountain Mental Health

Shock Therapy Group, LLC

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Society for Education & Advancement of Research in Connected Health (SEARCH)

Soulful Recovery

Southern Comfort Psychiatric Services

Spectrum: The Other Clinic

SSM Health

Stanford Health Care

StayWell Health Center

STXBP1 Foundation

Talkiatry

TeleHealthcare Network

The Global Telemedicine Group

The Mindful Oasis

The Taylor-Austin Group, LLC

Themindfullcup, LLC

TheraTec, Inc

Thrive Center LLP

TNacity Blue Ocean, Inc

Transcendental Wellness, PLLC

Transformative Healthcare

Tri-Area Community Health

True North Psychiatry

U.S. Pain Foundation

University of Maryland School of Medicine

University of Michigan Health

University of Mississippi Medical Center

URAC

Vento Healthcare Consulting, LLC

ViTel Net

WeKonnect, LLC

Willow Behavioral Health

Wind River Parkinson's Group

Workit Health

YesPsych LLC