

A-4  
American Medical Student Association  
House of Delegates 2023

**Introduced by:** Jimena Rivera, Trevor Lyford

**School(s):** University of South Florida, Eastern Virginia Medical School

**Subject:** Principles Regarding Health Equity

**Type:** Amendment by Addition

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1 WHEREAS it has been proven that using telehealth services improves healthcare outcomes by becoming  
2 more efficient and cost-effective for underserved communities. [1]

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4 WHEREAS there has been an increased demand in utilizing telehealth from the COVID-19 pandemic,  
5 including an increase in telehealth services from 5 million (2019) to 53 million (2020). [2]

6  
7 WHEREAS it has been found that individuals with Medicare and Medicaid, black individuals, and  
8 individuals making less than \$25,000 were at the highest rates of utilizing telehealth services. [3]

9  
10 WHEREAS it has been found that over 50% of U.S. physicians feel that telehealth has increased  
11 professional satisfaction and over 60% of physicians feel that patients are getting higher satisfaction from  
12 using telehealth. [4]

13  
14 WHEREAS it has been found that telehealth can significantly improve health outcomes for rural patients  
15 with heart disease, strokes, diabetes, and epilepsy, with many organizations such as the Epilepsy  
16 foundation, National Diabetes Prevention Program, and Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention  
17 are promoting to using telehealth. [5]

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19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Health Equity (pg. 165) of the  
20 American Medical Student Association be AMENDED BY ADDITION to state:

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22 The American Medical Student Association:

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24 1. **SUPPORTS the usage of telehealth, specifically for improving access for underserved**  
25 **communities.**

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27 Fiscal Note: None

28  
29 Citations

- 30  
31 1. *Onc: Office of the national coordinator for Health Information Technology*. HealthIT.gov. (n.d.).  
32 Retrieved December 18, 2022, from <https://www.healthit.gov/>  
33 2. Office, U. S. G. A. (2022, September 29). *Medicare telehealth: Actions needed to strengthen*  
34 *oversight and help providers educate patients on privacy and security risks*. Medicare Telehealth:  
35 *Actions Needed to Strengthen Oversight and Help Providers Educate Patients on Privacy and*

36 Security Risks | U.S. GAO. Retrieved December 18, 2022, from

37 <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-104454>

- 38 3. Karimi, M., Lee, E. C., Couture, S. J., Gonzales, A., Grigorescu, V., Smith, S. R., DeLew, N., &  
39 Sommers, B. D. (2022, February 1). *National Survey Trends in Telehealth Use in 2021:  
40 Disparities in Utilization and Audio vs. Video Services*. Retrieved December 18, 2022, from  
41 <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/4e1853c0b4885112b2994680a58af9ed/telehealth-hps-ib.pdf>  
42  
43 4. American Medical Association . (2021). *2021 Telehealth Survey Report*. Retrieved December 18,  
44 2022, from <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/telehealth-survey-report.pdf>  
45 5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, September 8). *Telehealth in rural  
46 communities*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 18, 2022, from  
47 [https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/telehealth-in-rural-](https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/telehealth-in-rural-communities.htm)  
48 [communities.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/telehealth-in-rural-communities.htm)