



September 8, 2021

The Honorable Mia Costello
Chair, Alaska Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
120 4th St., #119
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Joshua Revak
Vice Chair, Alaska Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
120 4th St., #125
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 3006

Chair Costello and Vice Chair Revak:

On behalf of Teladoc Health, I write to you in support of Senate Bill 3006. If passed, this legislation will increase access to safe, cost-effective health care for Alaskans at a time when COVID-19 cases continue to increase. Senate Bill 3006 would create a pathway for out-of-state medical providers who are licensed and in good standing within their own states to treat Alaskans through telemedicine until July 1, 2022. This provision is crucial to mitigating health care shortages amid the pandemic while simultaneously ensuring patients have access to safe, high-quality care. I urge you to pass this bill.

Teladoc Health is the world's largest telehealth company. We are successfully transforming how people access and experience healthcare, with a focus on high quality, lower costs, and improved outcomes around the world. The integrated services from Teladoc Health include telehealth, expert medical services, remote patient monitoring, mental health treatment, and licensable platform services. With more than 2,400 employees, we deliver care in 175 countries and in more than 40 languages, partnering with employers, hospitals and health systems, and more than 50 health plans in the U.S. Teladoc Health serves more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 employers, as well as thousands of small businesses, labor unions, and public-sector employers, which offer our virtual care services to their employees.

We are very proud of our contribution to healthcare in Alaska and have a robust presence there. In 2020, we were able to save patients and payors over 6 million dollars; over 1,000 employers offer the Teladoc Health benefit to their employees; over 178,000 lives are covered by Teladoc in Alaska. In addition, we performed over 14,000 consults in the state in 2020. Lastly, we have

over 100 physicians who are board certified and licensed in Alaska to provide care for your residents. Our Alaska-based clients include the University of Alaska, Alaska Electrical Trust Funds, Alaska Carpenters Trust Funds, Chenega Corporation, Alaska Pipe Trades U.A. Local 367, Hilcorp Energy Company, and hundreds of others. All of these entities have placed their trust in Teladoc Health because they understand the benefit and value that telehealth brings to their employees. As healthcare costs continue to rise, telehealth is one of the sharpest tools in the toolbox for employers, health plans and citizens.

Providing a means for out-of-state medical providers to practice via telemedicine is especially critical during a time when health care systems are already stretched to their breaking points. Not only would Senate Bill 3006 increase the number of medical providers available to treat patients, but it would also ensure that patients do not have to risk potentially dangerous in-person visits to receive the care they need. Senate Bill 3006 also guarantees the integrity of health care is maintained by requiring that out-of-state practitioners be licensed and in good standing with their respective state regulatory board. This safety measure ensures providers will be held accountable for the services they provide to Alaskans.

As we experience the resurgence of COVID-19 and witness its strain on health care systems across the country, it is clear that Senate Bill 3006 is a timely, common-sense measure that would benefit residents across Alaska. Relaxing licensure requirements so that licensed out-of-state providers can treat patients via telemedicine will ensure Alaskans can continue to access safe, timely and cost-effective care.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful deliberation of this issue that is so important to the residents of this state. I look forward to continued collaboration and hope that you will continue to see Teladoc Health as a resource.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Claudia Duck Tucker

Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs | Public Policy
Teladoc Health, Inc.