



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
REGARDING S.B. 13,  
**AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE  
SERVICES**

February 16, 2012

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Tracy Wodatch and I am the Vice-President of Clinical and Regulatory Services of the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH). I am also a registered nurse with both home care and telemedicine experience. CAHCH **supports** SB 13 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine Services.

Advances in technology especially in the provision of health care services must be incorporated into day-to-day physician office operations and recognized for reimbursement purposes. Insurance coverage for telemedicine will improve access to physician services and follow-up care while reducing potential costly hospital re-admissions and emergency room visits.

Many of the chronically ill, disabled clients served in the community need closer monitoring and follow-up to be maintained successfully in their homes. Yet, many of them have problems with transportation and physical disabilities rendering them unable to visit the physician for necessary follow-up care. Giving physicians the insurance coverage to be able to provide medical advice, care and treatment remotely without need for that physician office visit will offer the client access to the needed medical advice without the burdensome costs and problems that come with being transported to the office.

In addition, telemedicine has been a proven effective intervention utilized in the home care setting by Licensed Home Health Agencies for more than a decade even though there is currently no insurance coverage for its use. Home health agencies still choose to use

telemedicine to more closely monitor the clients while helping them avoid unwarranted hospital re-admissions, keeping them in their homes and improving self-management of their diseases. CAHCH promotes the use and insurance coverage of telemedicine and therefore supports SB 13.

Thank you for consideration of our testimony. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me at [wodatch@cahch.org](mailto:wodatch@cahch.org) or 203-294-7348.