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Statement in Support of SB1022/HB5596

I am a clinical psychologist who has practiced in Connecticut for over 35 years and formerly served as Director of Psychology at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan. My experience includes teaching and supervision under the aegis of various professional institutions and organizations.

I enthusiastically support these telehealth bills, including audio appointments. There is no question in my mind that telehealth has been profoundly beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, in my opinion, not only can such sessions be as efficacious as in-person meetings, but they also can offer significant advantages beyond the obvious safety aspects and should, therefore, be permanent options warranting equal reimbursement. Both patients I have previously known face-to-face and new patients I have never met in person have been greatly helped by telehealth interventions, including crisis management.

Thank you for considering this input.