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To: Public Health committee  
Insurance and Real Estate

Re: H.B. No. 5596; S.B. No. 1022

I am writing to express my support for these bills making permanent the use of telehealth for psychological services, and making permanent an equivalent reimbursement rate for in-person services.

I am a licensed clinical psychologist with over 30 years of experience providing therapy and psychological assessments. Prior to the pandemic, I did not use telehealth, and was reluctantly forced to do so due to the pandemic. However, in the course of accustoming myself to this modality, I have realized the many powerful advantages of using telehealth for psychological services. These include being able to continue services when clients are temporarily away or at college, providing services when there are transportation difficulties, providing services when either party has a cold or other potentially communicable condition, providing services for people with too much anxiety to leave their homes, etc. I have discovered that with older adolescents and adults, a degree of connection and engagement is possible equivalent to that attained with in-person therapy. Thus, telehealth enables improved access to care, and improved consistency of services without loss of quality, in my opinion. Once COVID is no longer a threat, I will probably use in-person therapy for many individuals, but would very much like to preserve the option to use telehealth whenever it is indicated or desired by the client or by circumstances.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Very truly yours,



Jill R. Edgar, Ph.D.

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