



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1 **Resolution on the Importance of Sustaining Telehealth Services Beyond COVID-19**

2 **WHEREAS**, states' implementation and flexibility to enable broad deployment of telehealth service during  
3 COVID-19 has ensured critical access to both physical and mental health services, and

4 **WHEREAS**, these provisions have heeded the call for millions of Americans to receive brain health services  
5 during this global pandemic, which has caused increased depression, anxiety substance use disorder and other  
6 like conditions, and

7 **WHEREAS**, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the National  
8 Association of Social Workers, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health America have  
9 called on Governor's to ensure telehealth services are sustained, while ensuring minimal disruption in current  
10 services, which provides greater safe guards to patient safety as local economies start to reopen, and

11 **WHEREAS**, Telehealth expansion includes, but is not limited to the elimination of geographic and  
12 originating site restrictions, which allows services to new patients as well as existing patients; loosening of  
13 technology requirements for telehealth and allowance of additional technologies such as smartphones;  
14 additional CPT codes allowed for telehealth; allowance of audio only services; parity in reimbursement  
15 between face-to-face services and telehealth, and

16 **WHEREAS**, as states lift restrictions and the workforce continue to open, brain health services, including  
17 mental health and substance use disorder treatment, will continue to increase. These services will be in  
18 greater demand well beyond COVID-19, and

19 **WHEREAS**, not only would sustained telehealth services ensure greater continuity of care, but assist in the  
20 transition of any specific care plan developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association encourages  
22 the Governor of States and Territories to consider making telehealth readily available moving forward.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association supports and  
24 appreciates the frontline behavioral health professionals who continue to provide critical services and  
25 resources to individuals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADOPTED, this day, the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020.



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford (R – Maryland)