

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *The Imperative for Leveraging Digital Health Innovations in Addressing the COVID-19
Pandemic and Modernizing the American Healthcare System*

We represent a diverse coalition of stakeholders that support the expanded use of digital health technologies in healthcare based on a consistently growing body of evidence demonstrating their ability to improve patient care, reduce hospitalizations, avoid complications, and improve patient engagement (particularly for the chronically ill). Digital health tools and services, increasingly powered by artificial/augmented intelligence (AI), leverage patient-generated health data (PGHD) and range from wireless health products, mobile medical devices, telehealth and preventive services, clinical decision and chronic care management support, and cloud-based patient portals. As a community, we call on you to work together and take bipartisan action to enable secure digital health solutions to end the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, mitigate disparities in the American healthcare system, and accelerate the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care.

The need for rapid modernization of healthcare incentives in America is even more essential considering the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in the United States. The public health emergency exacerbates disparities in health outcomes that long existed between demographics, geographies, and other social determinants of health. Recently, patients turned to digital health platforms, tools, and services, consulting with caregivers in greater numbers as clinicians treating their patients at home seek to avoid calling them into an office or hospital. As a result, healthcare treatments via virtual modalities increased dramatically under temporary allowances related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, with patients and providers alike increasingly relying on their efficiencies. Digital health tools that securely make access to and utilization of PGHD viable will be key to mitigating the disastrous impacts of the ongoing public health emergency and in improving the American healthcare system widely, and policymakers must work to encourage their availability and use.

While the signatories to this letter advocate for a wide range of actions by government, we are all committed to a common view: the 117th Congress, the Biden-Harris Administration, and other

policymakers must work together to bring the demonstrated value of digital health tools and services to every American. Congress must seize the opportunity it has to advance the responsible use of digital health tools in healthcare widely through all opportunities, including in addressing COVID-19 relief for the country. The Administration, as well as independent federal agencies, must take advantage of all opportunities available to utilize digital health technology to augment care in a secure and privacy-protective manner for every patient.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to leverage the extraordinary potential of digital health technologies in this critical time.

Sincerely,

American Association for Respiratory Care

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review for Physicians

American Clinical Neurophysiology Society

American Health Information Management Association

Apple Inc.

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Catalia Health

Cerner Corporation

Cohen Veterans Bioscience

Connected Health Initiative

DayaMed

Diasyst

Dogtown Media

GlobalForce Tech Consulting, LLC

Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center

Health Recovery Solutions

Health Tech Pal Corp

Healthcare Leadership Council

HealthDatix

Hygieia, Inc.

iRedeemHealth

Kaia Health

KJ Solutions

Lief Therapeutics

Life365 Health
Medical Society of Northern Virginia
Mend VIP, Inc.
National Coalition on Health Care
Noom, Inc.
Omron Healthcare Inc.
Optimize Systems Inc.
Pillsy Inc.
Pt Pal
Reconnect4Health
Remote Cardiac Services Provider Group
ResMed Inc.
Rimidi
rtNOW
Scope Data, LLC
Spine and Pain Institute at Midstate
Telemedicine Health, Inc.
The Medical Alley Association
The Omega Concern, LLC
Three Wire Systems
TytoCare
UnaliWear, Inc.
University of Mississippi Medical Center - Center for Telehealth
Upside Health, Inc.
URAC
Validic, Inc.
VeruStat Inc.
Virtual Care Advisors, LLC
VitalTech Affiliates