

**Statement for E&C Health Subcommittee Hearing:
“The Future of Telehealth: How COVID-19 is Changing the Delivery of Virtual Care”
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. (EDT) via Webex**

Introduction ~ 1 min

Thank you, Madam Chair for calling this important hearing and thank you to our witnesses for being here today.

Telehealth has been critical to preserving access to care during the public health emergency.

We are seeing virtual care being embraced like never before... largely due to providers quickly scaling and adopting technology at the start of the pandemic.

For years we have been working on policy to incentivize this adoption... but it was the CMS waivers issued early in the pandemic that were key to jumpstarting the widespread telehealth investment.

What is striking to me is that many of the changes made by CMS...to waive geographic and site requirements and increase flexibility for telehealth under Medicare...were not new ideas.

They are the same policy changes we have been fighting for in Congress for years, common sense solutions that broaden where services can be provided and who can provide them, breaking down long-standing, inequitable barriers to digital care.

I am proud to co-lead several efforts that will give our providers more certainty about how care will be delivered in the future... both *the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act* and the comprehensive *CONNECT for Health Act* would remove the most onerous roadblocks in telehealth ensuring its continued use beyond the public health emergency.

Modernizing telehealth policy to meet the moment is one of the most important responsibilities of this Health subcommittee in the near-term.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today and working with my colleagues on solutions that promote safe and equitable access to telehealth for years to come.