

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis

Your testimony focuses on how 5G improves quality of care. Healthcare affordability continues to be a major concern for my constituents. A Deloitte study suggests that telehealth programs can have a 50% reduction in medical costs associated with chronic heart failure. A separate poll states that most healthcare executives believe 5G will reduce patient costs. Can you tease out how 5G will equate to better health outcomes at lower cost?

*This is very good question. Unlike previous improvements to wireless technology, 5G represents a transformational change that will enable significant gains (i.e.; orders of magnitude) for the transmission of data and information. Because healthcare is extremely data- and information-rich, 5G technology will create new opportunities to deliver care remotely. This means a patient doesn't need to go to their doctor or to the hospital every time they need care.*

*You reference the Deloitte study regarding chronic heart failure (CHF) as an example of how telehealth programs have reduced medical costs. This is a great example of what is possible. Patients with CHF need to be monitored frequently to ensure that they do not develop complications to their disease or to treatment. Rather than having a patient come back to the doctor's office to be monitored, telehealth enables the patient to be monitored at home. Every morning, a patient can have their blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen levels, and overall body weight measured through at-home devices and this information is automatically sent to the doctor or nurse for their review. If they see a problem, then they will ask the patient to come to the hospital or office. This is only possible if the infrastructure exists to send this amount of information safely, securely, and effectively. 5G technology enables this to be possible.*

*Other diseases where telemedicine is showing promise include diabetes, obesity, stroke, cancer, asthma and COPD, and addiction treatment. All these examples present opportunities to deliver better health outcomes at lower costs and improved quality of life for patients and their care givers, including family members.*

*Thank you for your interest in this important topic.*