

TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS:	“Telehealth” refers to a mode of delivering healthcare services through the use of telecommunications technologies, including but not limited to asynchronous and synchronous technology, remote patient monitoring technology, or by a healthcare practitioner to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the healthcare practitioner; and
WHEREAS:	Telehealth has played a significant role in providing access to quality healthcare services for millions of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency and beyond; and
WHEREAS:	Following the unprecedented use of telehealth and virtual care services in response to the public health emergency, telehealth now represents 15 to 20 percent of care delivery, confirming the need to create a two-channel healthcare system that balances in-person and virtual care; and
WHEREAS:	Telehealth allows healthcare providers to securely connect with patients wherever they are when an in-person interaction is not clinically necessary or available and expands access to healthcare services for patients in need of specialty care, enabling the healthcare system to do more good for more people,
WHEREAS:	Improving access to telehealth services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities, is essential to providing patients and families with safe, appropriate care when and where they need it; and
WHEREAS:	Telehealth Awareness Week unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in healthcare; Now
THEREFORE:	I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 19-25, 2021 as TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.