

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing September 19-25, 2021, as Telehealth Awareness Week; and for other purposes.

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 as well as remote patient monitoring technology, 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 supporting 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 and virtual care services continue to provide patients and families with safe, appropriate care when and where they need it; and

WHEREAS, telehealth allows healthcare providers to connect securely with patients wherever they are when in-person interaction is not clinically necessary or available, and it expands access to healthcare services for patients in need of specialty care, enabling the healthcare system to do more good for more people; and

WHEREAS, we must help improve broader access to telehealth services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Telehealth Awareness Week unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in advancing the role of telehealth in healthcare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that September 19-25, 2021, is recognized as Telehealth Awareness Week and that all citizens are encouraged to join in this special observance.

So resolved, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Representative Sharon Cooper
District 43
Georgia House of Representatives