



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 551 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Insurance

Coverage and Reimbursement for Telehealth Services

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Position: Support

Moveable Feast supports *House Bill 551 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Insurance – Coverage and Reimbursement for Telehealth Services*. The bill provides for reimbursement of the telehealth services beyond the pandemic. Telehealth is an important strategy in our health care system’s efforts to address inequities in health care.

Moveable Feast’s mission is to provide medically tailored meals to individuals facing life threatening illnesses to improve their quality of lives. We deliver meals to our clients’ homes since many of our clients face transportation and mobility issues. Telehealth is based on a similar principle – bringing health care directly to consumers so that they do not have to navigate scheduling and transportation challenges.

By providing for reimbursement of audio-only services, the bill addresses one of the major barriers to telehealth services. Many individuals and sometimes whole communities do not have access to broadband or computers. Audio-only visits are essential to connect people to the health services they need. The bill also provides that reimbursement policies comply with federal parity rules for behavioral health.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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Moveable Feast is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting our accounting office. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.