



## PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Mark Mustio  
416 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202044  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2044

The Honorable Harry Readshaw  
221 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202036  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2036

Dear Chairmen Mustio and Readshaw,

On behalf of the Community Health Centers (CHC) and Rural Health Clinics we represent, the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) expresses its support of Senate Bill 780 as passed by the Senate. As the state primary care association, representing and supporting the largest network of primary health care providers in the Commonwealth, our network of health centers serves more than 870,000 of our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians annually in underserved rural and urban areas.

In speaking with our counterparts in other states and our national association, we can attest that there is a growing need to have an effective telemedicine infrastructure, including a fair reimbursement system. We appreciate the legislation's intent to develop guidelines for telemedicine and promote its use with responsible guidelines and appropriate protections in place for accountability. SB 780 allows providers in our health centers to care for patients using telemedicine, enabling more patients to receive treatment without the barrier of travel time or distance. We support that the legislation will also allow reimbursement for services under both commercial and Medicaid managed care in order to fully expand access to patients using this option for healthcare visits.

On behalf of our members, PACHC supports SB 780 and looks forward to the opportunity to use modern technology as another means to diagnose and treat the patients who count on us for access to quality, affordable health care. We urge support of this legislation in its current form. If we can provide additional information or answer any questions, please contact our policy director, Jim Willshier, at [Jim@pachc.org](mailto:Jim@pachc.org) or (717) 761-6443, extension 206.

Sincerely,

Cheri L. Rinehart  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Elder Vogel  
The Honorable Joe Scarnati  
The Honorable Jake Corman  
The Honorable Jay Costa

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