

Chris O'Brien

From: Herman Ayvazyan <ayvaz2000@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:03 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Re House Bill No 7171

Herman Ayvazyan MD

**450 Veterans' Memorial Parkway Bldg #12
East Providence RI 02914
Phone # 434-6464**

Re; House Bill No 7171 (Governor) By Abrey ENTITELED,AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
INSUPPORT OF FY 2021

Esteemed Members of the House of Representatives

I have been a primary care doctor in solo private practice for the last 32 years. On March 23,2020 I decided that I should stop seeing patients at my office in person due to the risk of either my staff or patients getting infected with the Covid 19.

Until June 1, 2020 I was able to treat my patients and survive as a small business owner thanks to telemedicine. I have been seeing patients in person at my office since June 1, 2021 with one one office staff (I had three prior to March 23,2020). I am only able to keep my doors open to see patients in the office because I still am able to take care of the needs of about 40-50 % of my patients thru Telemedicine .

Under current arrangement I only have 1 patient at a time in the waiting room minimizing any possible exposure to the others. If I had to see all my patients in person it would greatly increase the volume in the waiting room.. I don't see the Covid -19 pandemic going away anytime soon and I believe if third parties stop coverage to telemedicine it could force primary care doctors in their 60's who could work another 5-10 years into an early retirement. Losing experienced PCPs is the last thing that our current health care needs.

I strongly urge you to vote For House Bill 7171 which extends and supports the current Executive Order mandating that the invaluable tool of telemedicine (via both telephone and videa) be reimbursed at rates equivalent to in person care.

Sincerely
Herman Ayvazyan MD,FACP