

September 10, 2024

Neera Tanden, J.D.  
Director  
U.S. Domestic Policy Council  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Harming Patient Access to Critical Health Treatments

Dear Director Tanden,

We stand with you in improving access to mental health and substance abuse services across the country, and commend the Administration for making critical investments in access and treatment. It's with our mutual commitment in mind that we write you today. Millions of Americans will lose access to critically important health care treatment on December 31, 2024 unless the Administration acts. We need your leadership to ensure that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) preserves this access.

The Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008 requires the DEA, in conjunction with the Secretary of HHS, to promulgate permanent rules to allow practitioners to prescribe certain controlled medications via telehealth through a special registration pathway. As of today, the agency still had not done so. In the advent of the Public Health Emergency, the DEA allowed DEA-registered practitioners to issue prescriptions for certain controlled substances to patients via telemedicine without requiring an in-person medical evaluation. These flexibilities have been a lifeline for countless individuals across the country, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential mental health care, substance use treatment, end-of-life care, and many other crucial treatments during a time when in-person visits were impossible or unsafe.

The ongoing challenges in accessing mental health and substance use treatment services, particularly in rural and underserved areas, underscore the importance of maintaining these flexibilities. More than half of U.S. counties [do not](#) have a psychiatrist. The shortage is even more prominent in rural areas, with [nearly three quarters](#) of rural counties lacking a psychiatrist. Telemedicine has proven to be an effective tool in bridging the gap between patients and providers, reducing barriers to care, and supporting those most in need. At its pandemic peak, telehealth [represented](#) 40% of mental health and substance use outpatient visits, and still remains strong, representing 36% of outpatient visits currently.

Given the widespread provider shortage across medical professions and specialties, this flexibility has been essential in ensuring that patients receive timely and necessary care. Continuing these practices is vital to sustaining access to treatment and addressing the ongoing healthcare challenges in underserved areas.

Given how late we are in the year and with the waiver expiring on December 31, there is very little time left for the DEA to release a draft rule for public comment, close the comment period, review the substantive feedback, and finalize the rule in time for the end of the year. Nearly 40,000 comments were submitted last year when the DEA first attempted to draft rules for a permanent framework on remote prescribing of controlled substances.

Given the success and positive clinical outcomes associated with the prescribing flexibility, **the undersigned organizations request the Administration to work with the DEA and other relevant agencies**

**to extend these prescribing flexibilities for two years while the DEA works to meet its congressional mandate to create a special registration pathway that continues access to care.** An extension would avert patient harm from abruptly cut off care, while giving us all more time to come to consensus about the best way to balance access and enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to any signer of this letter for additional information and context.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Connected Care  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of PAs  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists  
American College of Physicians  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Telemedicine Association  
American Urological Association  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
ALS Association  
ATA Action  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center  
Center of Attention Mental Health Services  
Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children's Hospital Association  
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)  
Connected Health Initiative  
Consumer Technology Association  
Convenient Care Association  
Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)

Epilepsy Alliance America  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)  
LeadingAge  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Alliance for Care at Home  
National Association of Epilepsy Centers  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health  
National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
National League for Nursing  
National Mental Health  
National Rural Health Association  
OCHIN  
PAN Foundation  
Partnership for Employer Sponsored Coverage  
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Access TeleCare  
Ace Mentality  
Advance Into Wellness  
Advanced Care Basic, LLC  
Advanced Practice Psychiatry  
AGMP Telehealth  
AiArthritis (International Foundation Autoimmune Autoinflammatory Arthritis)  
Alex Petrino Counseling & Consulting LLC  
Alliance Mental Health  
Amazon  
American TelePhysicians  
Anderson Medical Services  
Anderson Mental Health Services LLC  
Anew Outlook Health, PLLC  
Aragon Mental Health, LLC  
Arrow Health  
AsyncHealth Inc  
At Your Service Psychiatry, PLLC  
Authentigo Health, PLLC  
Avel eCare  
Avery's Hope  
Balanced Innovative Care  
Bard College Health Services  
BDSRA Foundation  
Behavioral Health Tech

Betterlifemws  
Bicycle Health  
Billings Clinic  
Birch Grove Mental Health  
Blue Sea Mental Health LLC  
Boston Behavioral Health Associates INC.  
Boulder Care  
Brave Health  
Brightline, Inc.  
Broad Mountain Holistic Mental Health Services  
Brownlee Health  
CACNA1A Foundation  
Capitol Hill Medical  
Care Simplified PLLC  
Caregility  
Centerstone  
Chesapeake Psychological Associates  
Children's Nebraska  
Children's Hospital New Orleans  
ChristianaCare  
Circle Medical  
CirrusMD  
Cleveland Clinic  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
Cohesive Health and Wellness  
Collaborative Physician Partners, LLC  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Compass Psychiatric Wellness  
Compassion & Choices  
Compassion Recovery Centers  
Complete Behavioral Health, PLLC  
Craig Hospital  
CSNK2B Foundation  
Cure GABA-A  
Current Mind Care  
Danny Did Foundation  
Deerbrook Counseling  
Different MHP, PC  
DOGTOWN MEDIA LLC  
DoseSpot  
Down East Psychiatry  
Dr Sun Psychiatry, LLC  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Duke Health

Dup15q Alliance  
Eleanor Health  
ELEVATE HEALTH AND WELLNESS LLC  
Embolden You LLC  
Emory  
Empower Pharmacy  
Encounter Telehealth, Inc  
Envision Elite Wellness PLLC  
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)  
Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana  
Epilepsy Foundation Texas  
Essentia Health  
Evergreen Psychiatric Services PLLC  
Evolution Health  
Evolve Mental Health P.C.  
Excel Medical  
Fermata  
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value  
Floridians for Accountability in Health Care, Inc.  
FOLX Health  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Fountain Vitality, Inc  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Friends of Parkinson's  
Frontier Psychiatry, Inc.  
GABA-A Alliance  
Gaucher Community Alliance  
GenieMD, Corp  
GRIN2B Foundation  
Guide To Wellness PA LLC  
Hadi Shah MD Inc  
Half Full Psychiatry LLC  
Harmony & Unity Mental Health  
Harmony Mental Health  
Hawley Psychiatric PLLC  
Health Care Advocates International  
Heartland Alliance Health  
Heron Mental Health  
Hims & Hers Health, Inc.  
Hive Mental Health  
Holistic Medical Care Clinic LLC  
Homeward Health Inc.  
Hone Health  
Hope for HIE

Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
Hope Mental Health  
HouseCallMD LLC  
Human RX Wellness LLC  
Hydrocephalus Association  
IMPOWER  
IN HARMONY WELLNESS  
Included Health, Inc.  
Innovatel Telepsychiatry, LLC  
InSite Health  
Integrated Telehealth Partners  
Intermountain Health  
Jasper Health LLC  
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine  
Kate Mageau Counseling LLC  
Kelley-Ross Pharmacies Gender Affirming Care Program  
KeyCare Medical Group  
Kohnlinq, Inc.  
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation  
Kristina Casel Mental Health  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
LifeMD, Inc.  
Lifepoint Health  
LMA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
Logan Wellness Advanced Nursing Practice Corp.  
Loma Linda University Health  
LT Telehealth/LocumTenens.com  
Mae Mental Wellness  
Magellan Health  
Magnolia Therapeutics  
Marek Health  
marina medical group, inc.  
Mass General Brigham  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
Meds.com  
MedStar Health  
Melissa Prince Canp endocrinology  
Mend VIP, Inc.  
Mente Behavioral Health  
Midi Health  
Mind Revive Psychiatry LLC  
Mindful Intentions, LLC  
Minnesota Hospital Association  
Moving Mountains - Mental Health & Recovery, PLLC

My Kool Brother  
Nest Collaborative  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
NextGen Healthcare  
Nicklaus Children's Health System  
NIM Longevity  
Nixon Gwilt Law  
Noma Therapy  
NORSE Institute  
Northwell Health  
Northwest Telepsychiatry  
Ophelia  
Optimal Hormones & Wellness  
Ovum Health  
Palmetto Care Connections  
Pandemic Patients  
Paragon Behavioral Health  
Parisi Psychiatry and Wellness  
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine  
Peak Mental Health LLC  
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium  
Pelago  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Physician Assistants In Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine  
Pivot Behavioral Health LLC  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
Plume Clinic  
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health  
Precision Compounding Pharmacy  
Premier Inc.  
Psychboston  
Psychiatric Medical Care  
Psychiatric Medical Practitioners, Inc.  
Psychiatric Solutions LLC  
PursueCare  
Qbtech, Inc.,  
QMed, LLC  
Quartet Health, Inc.  
QueerDoc  
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN)  
RASopathies Network  
Renewed Outlook Holistic Mental Health and Wellness LLC  
Resolve Psychiatric Services  
Ro

Rocket Doctor  
Rogo Healthcare Services, Inc  
RxHomeTest  
Sandpiper Wellness, LLC  
Sanford Health  
Shadow Mountain Mental Health  
Shock Therapy Group  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
South Carolina HIMSS  
Sovato  
Specialist Telemed  
Spectrum: The Other Clinic  
Spring Forest Counseling & Wellness at Red Cedar  
SSM Health  
Stanford Medicine  
Still Waters Psychiatry PLLC  
STXBP1 Foundation  
Synchronous Mental Health  
SynGAP Research Fund - DBA curesyngap1  
Taconic Psychiatry  
Tailor Made Compounding  
Talkiatry  
Talking Twenties  
Tandem Telehealth Medical Group  
TECHMEDO  
Telecare Anywhere  
Telehealth Services USA PC  
Telehealthdocs Medical Group  
TeleMed2U  
Texas Health Resources  
The Center for Discovery, inc.  
The Cute Syndrome Foundation  
The Dream of Health LLC  
The FamilieSCN2A Foundation  
The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders  
The Global Telemedicine Group  
The Rory Belle Foundation  
The Sturge-Weber Foundation  
The Taylor-Austin Group, LLC  
The Trevor Project  
TheraTec, Inc  
TimberNorth Mental Health  
tMED - The Massachusetts Telemedicine Coalition  
Transcendental Wellness, PLLC



Transformative Healthcare  
TruBridge  
True North Psychiatry  
True U Clinic  
TSC Alliance  
Tufts University  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
University of Michigan Health  
University of Mississippi Medical Center Center for Telehealth  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System  
URAC  
UVA Health  
UW Medicine  
VA Hospital  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
VeeOne Health  
VerifiNow Inc  
Vida Telehealth  
Virtually CALM, LLC  
ViTel Net  
Vizient, Inc.  
Ward Group, LLC.  
Washington State Psychiatric Association  
WeKonnnect, LLC  
Welliti  
Williamson Health and Wellness Center  
Winston Center  
With You Medical  
Workit Health  
Yale New Haven Health System  
Yale School of Medicine  
YesPsych LLC  
Your Best Self Behavioral Health  
YWHAG Research Foundation  
Zane Networks LLC

Cc: Terri Tanielian, Special Assistant to the President for Veterans Affairs, White House