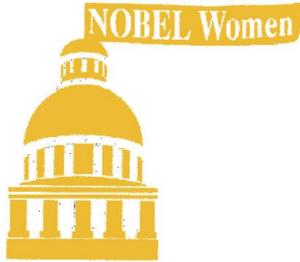


NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK ELECTED LEGISLATIVE

WOMEN



Resolution on A Federal Framework for Telehealth Licensure

A resolution calling on Congress to reform telehealth licensure regulations to enable health providers to make their expertise available across state boundaries

Introduction

Telehealth holds the power to reduce healthcare costs, improve access to care while providing a platform for more efficient care for patients. More women are undertaking the responsibility of caring for their children and elderly family members and telehealth can be a solution for those seeking care, regardless of geographic location. As policy makers, we must focus our efforts on measures that expand access to care, reduce costs and improve outcomes for all Americans.

WHEREAS: Health IT has the power to improve patient care and lower healthcare costs. To achieve these goals and to promote the use of portable health IT such as cloud-based electronic health records (EHRs), telehealth technologies, and mobile medical applications, it is critical that Congress put in place a framework to modernize licensure regulation so that health technologies can keep pace with consumer demand.

WHEREAS: The rapid evolution of the healthcare system and technology has over taken the current state-based system of medical licensure, traditional medical schools and training.

WHEREAS: Currently healthcare providers are required to obtain multiple state licenses and adhere to multiple and sometimes conflicting state medical practice rules in order to provide health care services across state lines via today's communications technologies.

WHEREAS: Patients are restricted from receiving medical services such as tele-radiology services, by physicians unlicensed in their own state, even if that same physician is licensed, credentialed, privileged and providing quality healthcare in other states.

WHEREAS: The convergence of medical advances, health information technology, and a nation-wide broadband network can transform the delivery of care to the population by bringing the health care provider and patient together virtually, especially those in disadvantaged areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress must establish a federal framework for telehealth licensure to realize the benefits of a nation-wide health network to improve population health, create jobs, and stimulate innovation. As the population is more mobile, constituents demand and expect access to care from anywhere and at any time.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the 2012 Legislative Summit of the NOBEL Women, assembled in Baltimore, MD, June 22, 2012 that NOBEL Women urge Congress to establish the above framework for health care providers to practice telehealth across state boundaries.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of Congress, and State Legislatures and Regulatory agencies.

SPONSOR: Senator Mattie Hunter (IL)

Ratified: June 22, 2012

Ratification is certified by: Senator Sharon Weston Broome (LA), President