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**TO:** All House members

**FROM:** Representative Doyle Heffley *DH*

**DATE:** October 12, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship of Legislation - Telehealth



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**MEMORANDUM**

**COMMITTEES:**  
GAME AND FISHERIES  
HUMAN SERVICES  
TRANSPORTATION  
TOURISM

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I am introducing legislation that would allow the Medical Assistance program to provide reimbursement for telehealth services.

Telehealth, which is the use of electronic communication equipment for the delivery of medical services, has been found to be an effective tool in increasing patient access to providers, improving quality of care, and promoting better communication and coordination among patients and providers. In this modern day and age the use of technology can broaden the base for which treatment can be rendered to a large population. Telemedicine can be used as a tool to improve access to health care for all eligible Medical Assistance recipients and can help to reduce the isolation of practitioners in Pennsylvania from their patient populace.

The Department of Public Welfare currently provides Medical Assistance reimbursement for telehealth services for consultations performed by maternal fetal medicine specialists relating to high risk obstetrical care and consultations performed by psychiatrists related to psychopharmacology. However, my legislation will allow all Medical Assistance providers who utilize telehealth to be reimbursed for their services. In doing so, my bill will allow a larger percentage of the underserved to have current, modern-day technology brought into their community to ensure for a better and more comprehensive delivery of healthcare.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my office at 717-260-6139 or email [lschylas@pahousegop.com](mailto:lschylas@pahousegop.com).