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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1051 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY RAPP, BOBACK, RYAN, ULLMAN, DRISCOLL, KENYATTA,  
KAUFFMAN, TOOHIL, PICKETT, CAUSER, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, HERSHEY,  
BERNSTINE AND ZIMMERMAN, OCTOBER 19, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 19, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a cost-benefit analysis and issue a report on the  
3 need to increase the availability and provide additional  
4 funding for oral health care services in rural areas  
5 throughout this Commonwealth.

6 WHEREAS, Increasing the availability and lowering the cost of  
7 oral health care services is vital to meet the oral health  
8 demands of residents of this Commonwealth who live in rural  
9 areas; and

10 WHEREAS, Teledentistry is practiced in 23 states, with most  
11 of those states allowing Medicaid agencies to authorize  
12 reimbursement for teledentistry services; and

13 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians, including residents enrolled in  
14 medical assistance, living in rural areas or experiencing  
15 disabilities, are frequently unable to find or see a dentist or  
16 pay for dental care; and

17 WHEREAS, Teledentistry can be practiced in many ways,  
18 including video consultations, provider education courses and  
19 patient monitoring to address a patient's oral health; and

1       WHEREAS, Lack of oral health care services leads to a greater  
2 risk of chronic illnesses and poor health outcomes; and

3       WHEREAS, Preventive dental care and treatment reduces  
4 expenditures to treat other chronic and serious conditions; and

5       WHEREAS, Mobile dentistry has become a valuable tool in  
6 delivering oral health care services to rural Pennsylvanians;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, At least 40 state Medicaid programs reimburse for  
9 mobile dental services; therefore be it

10       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
11 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a cost-  
12 benefit analysis and issue a report on the need to increase the  
13 availability and provide additional funding for oral health care  
14 services in rural areas throughout this Commonwealth; and be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's  
17 report include an examination of the costs of oral health care  
18 services for residents of this Commonwealth who live in rural  
19 areas and lack access to oral health care services; and be it  
20 further

21       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's  
22 report include recommendations to achieve potential savings from  
23 integrating teledentistry, mobile dentistry and any other cost-  
24 saving benefit options in order to provide oral health care  
25 services to residents of this Commonwealth who live in rural  
26 areas; and be it further

27       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
28 submit its report to the members of the House of Representatives  
29 within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution.