

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Telehealth, also known as telemedicine, allows for health care providers to give treatment without an in-person office visit; and

WHEREAS: Telehealth can be conducted online over a computer, cell phone, or tablet, using video calls. It can also be conducted over the phone; and

WHEREAS: A variety of care can be offered through telehealth, including prescription management, counseling, post-surgical follow-up, and mental health counseling, among others; and

WHEREAS: Telehealth became increasingly prevalent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as social distancing measures and other safety protocols limited patients' ability to go to clinics and hospitals in-person; and

WHEREAS: In March of 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Executive Order 20-05 removed some of the restrictions that were originally in place for telemedicine, including the requirement of "an in-person encounter, or a face-to-face examination using real time audio and visual means to establish a professional relationship." This enabled patients to receive treatment remotely, reducing the risk of COVID-19's spread in healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS: Medicaid in Arkansas reimburses the costs for live video, remote patient monitoring, and audio calls when the telemedicine service is comparable to an in-person service; and

WHEREAS: Since 2015, coverage for telemedicine by Medicaid, private insurance, and state employee health plans has been required by Arkansas law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 18th through September 24th, 2022, as


TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 8th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State