



April 14, 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Senate Bill 5175

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the 99 hospital members of the Washington State Hospital Association, it is a pleasure to ask you to sign Substitute Senate Bill 5175. SB 5175 requires coverage of health services when provided to patients through telemedicine. The bill before you is the result of a multi-year legislative effort.

SB 5175 had strong, bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. The Senate voted 46-0 and the House voted 88-9 on the bill.

Telemedicine will save lives and improve patient care. By bringing specialists and patients face-to-face, those who are suffering from strokes, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, psychiatric crisis and other conditions, will be able to get expert consultations. Telemedicine brings services to people who would otherwise have a hard time accessing care. The usefulness in rural communities is obvious, but it will also be useful in urban areas of our state.

We respectfully request you sign SB 5175 into law.

Sincerely,

Cassie Sauer
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Government Affairs