



April 18, 2025

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and our clinician members dedicated to advancing cardiovascular care, we write to express our strong support for the ***Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act of 2025 (S. 1261)***. Your legislation will expand coverage of crucial telehealth services through Medicare, make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities, improve health outcomes, and make it easier for patients to connect with their doctors.

This critical legislation will advance the integration and accessibility of telehealth services, ensuring that patients receive high-quality, timely, and efficient cardiovascular care. The ***CONNECT for Health Act*** recognizes the evolving landscape of health care delivery by removing outdated geographic restrictions on telehealth services, expanding originating sites, and enhancing provider eligibility to furnish telehealth care under Medicare. These measures are instrumental in addressing barriers to care, particularly for patients in rural and underserved areas who face challenges in accessing cardiovascular specialists.

For cardiovascular patients, timely intervention and follow-up care are essential to managing chronic conditions, preventing complications, and reducing hospital readmissions. Telehealth has proven to be a vital tool in enabling patients to receive ongoing management for conditions such as hypertension, heart failure, and arrhythmias. The expansion of telehealth under the ***CONNECT for Health Act*** will further support innovative approaches to remote patient monitoring and virtual consultations, fostering continuity of care and improved patient outcomes.

The ACC has long advocated for policies that leverage digital health technologies to optimize patient-centered care. The ***CONNECT for Health Act*** is a significant step toward a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system, empowering patients and providers with the tools necessary to improve cardiovascular health and overall well-being.

The ACC stands ready to collaborate with you and your colleagues to implement policies that enhance telehealth infrastructure and improve healthcare accessibility for millions of Americans.

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Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC

Vice President
Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC

Immediate Past President
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Chief Executive Officer
Cathleen C. Gates

The Mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

We commend your leadership in advancing this vital legislation and we look forward to working with you to advance the swift passage of the **CONNECT for Health Act**. Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of patients nationwide.

For any questions or to discuss further, please contact Foster Curry, Manager of Congressional Affairs, at FCurry@acc.org or Adrienne Mortimer, Associate Director of Legislative Affairs, at AMortimer@acc.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC
President
American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is a global leader dedicated to transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. For more than 75 years, the ACC has empowered a community of over 60,000 cardiovascular professionals across more than 140 countries with cutting-edge education and advocacy, rigorous professional credentials, and trusted clinical guidance. From its world-class JACC Journals and NCDR registries to its Accreditation Services, global network of Chapters and Sections, and CardioSmart patient initiatives, the College is committed to creating a world where science, knowledge and innovation optimize patient care and outcomes. Learn more at www.ACC.org or connect on social media at @ACCinTouch

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