

## **Contact Your State Rep. to Support Telehealth House Bill 3498**

## TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR PERMANENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TELEHEALTH PRACTICE AFTER COVID-19

The ILOTA is a member of the Coalition to Protect Telehealth that is requesting Illinois telehealth reform legislation to *ensure coverage parity and payment parity of telehealth services with in-person services*. On Feb. 22, the Coalition to Protect Telehealth, a group of more than 30 leading health care and patient advocacy organizations, including ILOTA, announced its support for the legislation.

HB3498 was introduced on Feb. 19, 2021, by Illinois State Rep. Deb Conroy and filed as bipartisan legislation to protect Illinoisans' access to innovative telehealth services by mandating coverage and payment parity with in-person care. A press release summarizing the bill can be found <u>HERE</u>.

ILOTA is urging our members and their clients to lend their support to House Bill 3498. To ensure that accessible, safe and reliable telehealth that improves patient outcomes continues to be provided after the COVID-19 pandemic, we need the Illinois General Assembly to pass House Bill 3498 for both coverage and payment parity with in-person services.

## How you can support this bill:

- Contact your state representative and ask her/him to co-sponsor House Bill 3498.
  - Look up your state representative's contact information here (go to the "Find Officials" section and fill in your local address information)
    - $_{\rm o}{\rm Send}$  an email message to your state representative here
- Use our letter template to send a letter to your state representative
- Share a story about a client **or** caregiver who might be willing to share their story. If you know of a client or caregiver with a compelling story. We'll use these stories and their experiences in future support for the bill
  - Please forward them this link to a brief online survey: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHVK5XB</u>
  - If easier, we can interview via an online Zoom meeting, please send us an email to: <u>TelehealthQuestions@gmail.com</u>.

If you would like more background information and specific talking points, click <u>HERE</u>

For a full text on House Bill 3498 (Learn more about the bill)