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**CETF Applauds Governor Newsom and Assemblymember Mark González for Championing Legislation to Strengthen Telehealth Access and Achieve “Telehealth for All”**

**Sacramento, California (October 9, 2025)** – California Governor Gavin Newsom this week has signed AB 688, the “Telehealth for All Act of 2025,” which was authored by Assemblymember Mark González. The Telehealth for All Act of 2025 was co-sponsored by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) and the California Primary Care Association (CPCA). The Telehealth for All Act of 2025 establishes as State policy in California that Telehealth must be optimized for all residents, beginning with prioritizing data collection from the California's Medi-Cal Program.

More specifically, the Telehealth for All Act of 2025 requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to utilize Medi-Cal data and other available data sources to produce a public biennial Medi-Cal telehealth utilization report. This report will analyze telehealth access, utilization, quality of care, and patient outcomes.

“On behalf of CETF, we applaud the leadership of author Assemblymember Mark González, co-author Senator Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D., and Governor Gavin Newsom to address the critical need to optimize telehealth in California,” **said Sunne Wright McPeak, CEO and President of CETF.** “Establishing a State policy informed by Medi-Cal program data is essential and AB688 is trailblazing public health policy for the nation.”

The Telehealth for All Act of 2025 will provide key insights into telehealth access, its impact on health outcomes, and disparities across populations. By leveraging telehealth to expand access to medical and behavioral health services, the Telehealth for All Act of 2025 will help ensure that all Californians, in particular those who are medically underserved, receive the care they need, ultimately improving both individual patient outcomes and public health statewide.

“AB 688 makes sure telehealth works for everyone – not just those who already have access,” **said Assemblymember Mark González (D-Los Angeles).** “By using Medi-Cal data to see who’s getting care and who’s being left out, we can close gaps, expand access, and make sure every Californian – no matter their ZIP code or income – can connect to the quality care they deserve.”

“This new law will help us better understand and address the barriers that patients face when trying to access care through telehealth,” **said Dennis Cuevas-Romero, Vice President of Government Affairs of CPCA.** “By focusing on data and equity, we can ensure that telehealth reaches the communities who need it most, improving health outcomes for patients across the state.”

In 2020, fact-finding conferences led by the CETF, CENIC, Partners in Care Foundation, and the CPCA found that telehealth significantly reduced behavioral health no-show rates and that community clinics require additional support. A Skilled Nursing Facility Pilot Project by CETF demonstrated a 20% reduction in costly hospital transfers, with 94% of patients and families expressing satisfaction. Additionally, an FCC grant awarded to CETF and 12 partners found that while 98.5% of providers were comfortable using telehealth, they needed more support for data collection and optimization.

Despite these benefits, the 2023 Statewide Digital Equity Survey revealed a decline in telehealth usage, dropping from 51% in 2021 to 46% in 2023, with lower adoption rates among low-income households (42%), and individuals facing language barriers (37%). These findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive data collection to evaluate telehealth's impact on patient outcomes and overall population health, which the Telehealth for All Act of 2025 addresses.

Public health research consistently shows that low-income households and communities of color experience higher mortality and morbidity rates across all leading causes of death, exacerbated by limited access to healthcare and medical expertise. The key challenge is measuring how expanded telehealth access can mitigate these disparities and improve health outcomes for medically underserved populations. The Telehealth for All Act is the crucial step towards addressing these inequities and ensuring telehealth is fully leveraged to promote health equity across California.

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**About Assemblymember Mark González (D-Los Angeles)**

Assemblymember Mark González is the Assembly Majority Whip. He represents the 54th Assembly District composed of the cities of Los Angeles, Commerce, Montebello, and Vernon.

**About the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)**

CETF is a statewide non-profit foundation with the mission to close the Digital Divide in California. CETF provides grants to non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) to assist low-income households adopt broadband and become digitally proficient, and leads and manages School2Home to successfully integrate technology into teaching and learning with deep parent engagement to close the Achievement Gap in middle schools in low-income neighborhoods, and promotes Digital Inclusion in public policy to achieve Digital Equity. Through collaborative efforts with government, industry, and community partners, CETF works to create inclusive digital ecosystems that empower individuals and communities to thrive in the Digital Age. For more information, please visit [www.cetfund.org](http://www.cetfund.org).

**About the California Primary Care Association (CPCA)**

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) represents nearly 2300 non-profit community health centers and clinics that provide care to more than 6.2 million patients each year. Community health centers (CHCs) are committed to providing comprehensive, high quality health care to everyone who walks through our doors, in a compassionate and culturally sensitive manner. CHCs include federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and FQHC look-a-likes, community clinics, free clinics, rural health clinics, migrant health centers, Indian health service clinics, and family planning clinics. Services include comprehensive primary and preventive care, women's health, dental, mental health, substance use treatment, health education, outreach and enrollment, pharmacy and more.