



June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To the Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society urges your support of SB20-212, Reimbursement for Telehealth Services. Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted. MS itself does not increase the risk of getting COVID-19. However, certain MS disease modifying therapies may deplete immune system cells, and thus increase risk for more severe illness.

Access to telehealth is crucial in ensuring safe, timely, convenient, and cost-effective access to the medical care people living with MS need, during this unprecedented health crisis and beyond. Several Coloradans living with MS are using telehealth currently, and here is what they have to say:

“As a person with a disability, which makes traveling difficult, I have found telehealth to be a very efficient, safe and effective way to get the clinical support I need from my neurology team without the inconvenience of traveling across town. Because of my MS, I am on medication to reduce my immune system, which makes me at a high risk for catching COVID-19. Therefore, it is imperative that I take every precaution to avoid potential places I could contract the disease, such as healthcare facilities and doctor’s offices. Telehealth allows me the opportunity to stay safe and still get the needed clinical support I need to deal with MS.” --Dave Pflueger, Golden Colorado

“I have been doing my physical therapy that helps keep me moving virtually! My therapist demonstrated exercises, watched me perform them, and sent both print and video follow ups so I could make sure I was doing them correctly. It was completely safe and private. I have been suffering from headaches recently and met with a headache specialist virtually. It was easy to recount my medical history, symptoms, and onset. There was plenty of time to cover every question. I didn’t have to put myself at risk in a waiting room, nor did I have to take the time to travel across town.” --Brandt Wilkins, Denver Colorado

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please contact me at [Jessalyn.hampton@nmss.org](mailto:Jessalyn.hampton@nmss.org) or 303-957-8503 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Jessalyn Hampton  
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