



A driving force for health equity



**California
Telehealth
Network**

An OCHIN organization

Submitted via electronic mail

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
1021 O St
State Capitol, Room 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814-5704

Re: Support for SB 282

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of OCHIN and the California Telehealth Network (CTN), I am pleased to offer our support for SB 282, which would allow federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and rural health centers (RHC) to be reimbursed for two visits that occur on the same day at a single site. Allowing for multiple reimbursements will ensure timely access to whole patient care by enabling a patient to be seen and treated the same day in different medical-dental disciplines, resulting in improved outcomes, because patients will face fewer structural barriers to care.

OCHIN is a national nonprofit health information technology and research network of locally controlled community health providers that offers technology solutions, informatics, evidence-based research, and policy insights. **In California, OCHIN network members serve 1.6 million active patients, more than 500,000 of whom are Medi-Cal enrollees.** For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced health care solutions by leveraging the strength of our network's unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation for patients and providers in rural and other underserved communities. **CTN is a leading consortium of organizations focused on increasing access to healthcare through telehealth platforms and education and affordable broadband throughout the state.**

Allowing providers to receive reimbursement for services delivered by different providers on the same day benefits the patients who can make a single visit (with reduced transportation costs and limit potential childcare costs and time away from work for medical appointments). Patients receive the care they need immediately from providers they know and trust, skipping lengthy referral waitlists and reducing the total amount of time spent seeking care. FQHC and RHCs' patient face structural challenges to access—transportation in particular. This bill helps ensure patients receive timely care in underserved areas.

Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org if we can provide any additional information to support your efforts to ensure safety net providers are justly compensated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jennifer Stoll".

Jennifer Stoll
Executive Vice President
External Affairs