



A driving force for health equity

Submitted via electronic email

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: A.B. 2339, Medi-Cal: Telehealth

Dear Senator Roth,

On behalf of OCHIN, I appreciate the opportunity to offer support for AB 2339, which would expand the definition of asynchronous store and forward to include messaging and allow establishment of a new patient-provider relationship through this method when initiated by a patient under the Medi-Cal program. In California, OCHIN network members serve 2.1 million patients and more than 690,000 Medi-Cal patients. We applaud your leadership in expanding access to health care for patients who experience significant health disparities in the Medi-Cal program by providing them additional means of accessing care.

For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced equitable 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 at scale for patients and providers in underserved communities. In the OCHIN network, many patients must overcome social drivers of health and the varied telehealth modalities (synchronous and asynchronous) have been essential tools for expanding access. Our members have patients who rely on store and forward modalities and by ensuring Medi-Cal coverage, patients can connect with their clinicians on a timely basis. This legislation builds on bills that you have authored (and secured passage of) that continue to improve our members' ability to meet patients where they are in the community.

Please contact me, stollj@ochin.org, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Stoll
Chief External Affairs Officer