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May 11, 2015

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: Support for “Telephonic and Electronic Patient Management Services” SB 289**

Dear Senator Mitchell:

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), I am writing to express the Chamber’s support for your Senate Bill 289 (SB 289). With approximately 3,000 members representing 400,000 employees, the Chamber is the largest nonprofit advocate for regional businesses and is dedicated to growing commerce in the San Diego region. We consider business and job creation a top priority, and support measures such as SB 289 that promote innovation and industry advancement.

The Chamber’s Healthcare Committee has recently identified the promotion of telemedicine as one of its priority issues. Recognizing the innovation and advancements resulting in improved patient access, patient care and lower costs, the Chamber appreciates your bill’s clarification that insurance plans must reimburse for appropriate telehealth services. This will remove current confusion around what is and is not an allowable cost, and further encourage the use of telemedicine.

Under current law, Californians cannot enjoy the full benefits of telemedicine due to policy that has failed to keep pace with technological advancements in the industry. SB 289 clearly outlines that payors may not deny coverage solely because the service was provided via telehealth, ending the debate and frustration that has posed a major hurdle to access.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you to ensure the success of SB 289. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chanelle Hawken, Vice President of Public Policy, at (619) 544-1365 or [chawken@sdchamber.org](mailto:chawken@sdchamber.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sanders', is written over a horizontal line.

Jerry Sanders  
President & CEO  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce