



August 24, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
250 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senators Blunt & Murphy:

On behalf of more than 30,000 people with cystic fibrosis (CF), the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation applauds your effort to support access to telehealth services by introducing *The Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act*, which would enable temporary licensing reciprocity for all licensed and certified practitioners in all states for all types of service for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and future national emergencies.

Individuals with CF require a complex, demanding care regimen, with a multidisciplinary care management team, and sometimes get care at CF care centers outside their state of residence. During this time of COVID-19, individuals with CF are particularly conscientious about potential exposure to the virus and therefore rely heavily on access to telehealth services. However, licensure requirements for clinicians can sometimes create barriers to access for individuals with CF who need to maintain continuous care.

During the public health emergency, the *TREAT Act* would help ensure individuals with CF are able to access the specialized care they need by allowing temporary reciprocity across the country for health care providers in good standing and with a valid license to practice medicine. While many states have adjusted their licensure requirements to enable greater flexibility of care and telehealth access for patients who live in a different state from their providers, the variability from state to state results in some individuals with CF still struggling to see their established care team.

For those who rely on out-of-state care centers to help manage their CF, licensure reciprocity is an important tool to make care more accessible. Again, thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and we support your efforts to expand licensing rules and reciprocity during this national public health emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Dwight".

Mary B. Dwight
Senior Vice President
Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation