



American Academy of Sleep Medicine

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) Supports the
Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care
Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act**

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Jerome A. Barrett
Executive Director

Dear Senator Schatz:

On behalf of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), I would like to commend you and your Senate colleagues on introducing the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act.

As the leading professional sleep society representing a combined membership of 11,000 accredited member sleep centers and sleep medicine physicians, scientists and health care professionals, the AASM supports this proactive bill and we appreciate your recognition that telehealth is the future of health care as it will save money and improve health outcomes.

Specifically, we support how the legislation would: create a bridge program to help providers transition to the goals of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) through using telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM); allow telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) to be used by qualifying participants in alternative payment models; and permit the use of RPM for certain patients with chronic conditions.

The bill's objectives are in alignment with the recent launch of **AASM Sleep™**, our new state-of-the-art telemedicine platform that will dramatically increase patient access to the expertise of board-certified sleep medicine physicians and accredited sleep centers. A core component of the system is a secure, web-based video platform that facilitates live, interactive consultations and follow-up visits between patients and sleep medicine providers. AASM Sleep™ also features an interactive sleep diary, sleep log and sleep questionnaires, and the system syncs with Fitbit® sleep data, giving sleep physicians an unparalleled view of their patients' sleep habits.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this important issue. Please contact AASM Executive Director Jerome Barrett at (630) 737-9700 for any necessary additional information.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel F. Watson, MD, MS
President

cc: Jerome A. Barrett, Executive Director