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February 14, 2022

Robert Knodell, Acting Director
Department of Social Services
Broadway State Office Building
PO Box 1527
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1527

Sent via email: dss.directorsoffice@dss.mo.gov

Dear Acting Director Knodell,

I am contacting you on behalf of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), a professional medical society that represents over 10,000 sleep medicine clinicians and sleep centers and is dedicated to advancing sleep care and enhancing sleep health to improve lives.

An AASM member recently reached out to AASM expressing their concern about the State of Missouri's decision to terminate coverage and reimbursement for telemedicine/telehealth exemptions under the state's Medicaid program, amid an ongoing national Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is retaining all services added to the Medicare telehealth services list on a temporary basis through December 31, 2023. due to the COVID-19 PHE. The CMS extension of the telehealth exemptions allows the agency to collect more data regarding utilization of these services during the PHE, while providing stakeholders the opportunity to make a case for permanent addition of these services, as appropriate.

The AASM believes that the State of Missouri's termination of the telehealth exemptions under the state's Medicaid program during the national PHE unduly disadvantages medical providers and their patients by limiting access to high-quality care and by extension, coverage for needed medical services via telehealth. While the Medicaid program is administered by the state, it is a federal program, and as such, the AASM encourages the state of Missouri to align with the CMS policy during the ongoing PHE and extend the telehealth service exemptions through the end of December 2023.

AASM appreciates your consideration of this request to extend the telehealth exceptions, consistent with the CMS policy. If you have any questions about this issue or require any additional information, please contact AASM

Director of Health Policy, Diedra Gray, at (630) 737-9700 or dgray@aasm.org.

Sincerely,

Raman Malhotra, MD
AASM President