**Telehealth**

**HB2655/SB2453 extends telehealth expansions and requirements of insurance coverage for telehealth that were developed in response to the pandemic**

**The Problem**

* With in-person care limited during the pandemic, the state of Tennessee expanded telehealth options to include more types of providers and more flexibility for who is allowed to use telehealth
	+ These rules are set to expire in April 2022
* Tennessee ranks 2nd in the US in rural hospital closures since 2005, and the healthcare networks in this state have been strained by the needs of the pandemic
	+ The pandemic has exacerbated the already troublesome health care workforce crisis and more and more providers say that state reimbursement rates limit access to services for Tennesseans
* Limited access to care is associated with worse health outcomes in the US

**The Solution**

* HB2655/SB2453 requires that health insurance companies cover most telehealth care in the same way that it covers in-person care
	+ This includes disregarding where a provider is located, allowing Tennesseans to access care from out-of-state providers
* The bill also expands the types of care that are permissible using telehealth to encompass any care that is normally within the scope of practice for any provider.