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**VNA of Boston Joins Support for Telehealth Bill**  
*Proposal Would Make Service Reimbursable Through Medicaid*

**Boston, MA** – The VNA of Boston stood with the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts to testify in support of a legislative proposal on establishing telehealth remote patient monitoring as a reimbursable service through Medicaid. The bill, filed by State Senator Harriette L. Chandler on behalf of the Alliance, was among a list of others that were the subject of a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

“In both concept and practice, telehealth presents solutions to a number of different issues,” said Home Care Alliance Executive Director Patricia Kelleher. “This service provides an ideal answer to the questions of how to care for an aging population, deal with a health care workforce shortage, and lower ballooning health care costs in the midst of a recession.”

According to a report by the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, 76 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964 are heading towards retirement age and “self –care technologies and programs will be increasingly needed to meet the needs of this nation’s aging population – especially in light of a continuing health care labor shortage.” Kelleher also noted in her testimony to the committee of state legislators that Johns Hopkins University reported 90 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have one or more chronic diseases.

“The home care agencies testifying here today are all in agreement. Telehealth monitoring can decrease emergency room visits and hospitalizations while assisting the patient in learning self management” said Joan Roth RN MSN from the VNA of Boston.

The public hearing was a primary step in the legislative process and, after accepting testimony from nearly 10 agencies in support of the telehealth bill, including the VNA of Boston, the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing will decide which proposals will advance.

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**About the VNA of Boston & Affiliates**

The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston & Affiliates provides home healthcare through the VNA of Boston, private pay services through VNA Private Care, and end-of-life support through VNA Hospice Care. We coordinate superior care across the continuum – for all ages, healthcare needs, and income levels – so that our patients and their families throughout Greater Boston have peace of mind and, most importantly, can live independently at home. Learn more about the VNA of Boston on the web at [www.bostonvna.org](http://www.bostonvna.org).

**About the Home Care Alliance:**

With a mission to unite people and organizations to advance community health through care and services in the home, the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts is a non-profit trade association and advocacy group providing representation, education, communication, advocacy and – ultimately – a voice for the state’s home health industry. Founded in 1969, the Alliance is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year in existence.