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INNOVATION ECONOMY

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January 14, 2021

The Honorable Bill Devlin
P.O. Box 505
Finley, ND 58230-0505

Dear Representative Delvin,

TechNet is a national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from revolutionary start-ups to some of the most recognizable companies in the world. TechNet represents over three million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

I am writing today in support of HB 1151, a telehealth-friendly bill which would allow for dentists to use a wider range of technologies while providing virtual care. The bill, which creates two new sections of the North Dakota Century Code, treats dentists using technology to provide patient care similar to the way physicians are permitted to practice and allows dentists who are performing preliminary evaluations or examinations to use videoconferencing and store-and-forward technologies to provide care remotely. This proposed legislation will encourage the use of innovative technologies and eliminate artificial barriers to North Dakotans' access to telehealth, all while mandating that the already-codified standards of care are met by teledentistry practitioners.

It is our belief that telehealth should be supported as a tool to practice dental care, ensuring consumers have access to affordable and top-notch dental care options. While we strongly support your efforts to allow for certain technologies to be utilized in the practice of teledentistry, TechNet maintains that the standard of care should govern all North Dakota-licensed practitioners, regardless of which technologies they use. We believe that this notion is especially pertinent considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, during which patients are searching for ways to receive effective, reasonably priced, and safe health care.

We urge you to vote in favor of HB 1151 and codify this useful language which TechNet believes will increase innovation, access, and consumer choice. Thank you for your consideration and for your support of telehealth. I look forward to working with you on this issue should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sams', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Samantha Kersul
Executive Director, Washington and the Northwest
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