

LOS ANGELES SOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY - HEALTHCARE

AB-32 (2021)

Telehealth

District 4 Assembly Member [Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry](#)

Purpose

- Require health care services furnished by an enrolled clinic through telehealth to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal on the same basis, to the same extent, and at the same payment rate as those services are reimbursed if furnished in person.
- By December 2024, evaluation to assess the benefits of telehealth in Medi-Cal for improved access, health quality outcomes and utilization, and best practices for the right mix of in-person visits and telehealth. Report its findings and recommendations to Legislature no later than July 1, 2025.
- Primary care, specialty providers and behavioral health have found telehealth to be a critical access point for follow up visits and after procedures. There is significant decrease in missed

appointments.

Status

- 07/08/21 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- **History**

Position

- Recommended Position: **Support**
 - Medi-Cal has a poorly structured payment mechanism with reimbursement rates (47th out of 50 states) which deters providers from participating in Medi-Cal. It is not financially feasible to lower rates. With the option for telehealth, providers may be willing to participate. Private insurance has been supplementing poor rates which increases the insurance cost to consumers.

Read the bill. [Click Here](#)

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