

THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

Shetal Shah, MD  
President, New York Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
P.O. Box 1411  
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Dr. Shah and the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,

I am writing to inform you that thanks to our collaborative work, health insurance plans covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including high deductible health plans (HDHPs), will cover telehealth services through 2021.

This measure was included in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, which was passed by the House of Representatives on March 27, 2020. It will allow pediatricians to provide “virtual” care via federally-authorized telehealth platforms to all children enrolled in these health insurance programs.

Dr. Shah and your organization were among the first to recognize the major impact the absence of telehealth coverage in these plans was having on children across Long Island and indeed the nation.

I was proud to advocate on behalf of pediatricians and children to my colleagues in the House of Representatives and on the House Committee on Ways and Means (on which I serve) in order to correct this issue for my constituents -- and both children and pediatricians across the country.

Your chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics should be commended for truly impacting national policy related to insurance coverage during a time of public health crisis. It is my continued honor to partner with pediatricians across Long Island to champion issues related to child health.

Thank you for your advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Suozzi".

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress