

[Your name]
[Your address]
[Your contact info e.g. email and phone]

[Date]

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you as a constituent who has personally benefited from telemedicine regarding the Ryan Haight Act. Specifically, I am requesting that the requirement for an in-person evaluation in order to be prescribed controlled substances be permanently waived, either through changes to the DEA rules or through new legislation. While the requirement for in-person evaluations prior to prescribing controlled substances was well-intentioned, the rule is detrimental to the practice of legitimate telemedicine providers delivering effective care. It is for this reason that I am writing to urge that this requirement, which was initially waived due to the Covid-19 pandemic, continue to be waived for those practicing telemedicine.

As I am sure you are well aware, there is a profound scarcity of mental health care providers in our country. According to the House Resources and Services Administration, over 150 million Americans live in federally designated mental health provider shortage areas. With waivers that have permitted providers to care for patients all across their respective states via telemedicine, mental health care has been delivered to many Americans who otherwise would not have been able to receive it. With the requirement for in-person evaluations reinstated, a multitude of Americans will no longer have access to essential mental health care.

Although the spread of the Covid-19 virus continues to reduce, we must acknowledge that the pandemic has caused widespread, significant worsening of mental health that will last well beyond the early years of the pandemic. Therefore, I am advocating for myself and the many others who will be negatively affected by this waiver lifting, and request that you either continue to waive the requirement of in-person evaluations or write a new exception so telemedicine providers may proceed with delivering vital care to patients. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Thank you,

[Your Name]