

Dear Governor Desantis,

As your constituent, I am writing this letter to urge you and your appropriate state agencies to act swiftly to work with Florida's commercial medical insurance companies and demand they provide insurance coverage for Telehealth for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Service in Florida during this time of crisis and social distancing. Telehealth parity laws that include Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy exist in the majority of other states today, but not Florida.

During this unsure time children need consistency and assurance. This is all the more true for children on the Autism Spectrum and with other development, intellectual, physical, and learning disabilities. In addition, there is a need for continued service to avoid loss of progress made with therapeutic intervention by Occupational, Speech and Physical therapy services.

The problem, Governor, is that Florida's commercial medical insurance companies are not all covering therapy via Telehealth.

As a family, we are forced to make the decision of discontinuing much needed services or paying privately in addition to the premiums we pay our commercial insurance company.

I implore you to step in and get these kids the services they need. Bring Florida's commercial medical insurance companies to the table. During this time of need families needing the services of Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy are stuck with our insurance companies blocking the needs of the families like mine, who pay them millions in benefit premiums.

I strongly urge you to act now to implement state-directed mandates for commercial medical insurances to cover these services for telehealth and to implement telehealth parity laws in the state of Florida that includes these much needed therapy services.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,