

BROADCAST- American Telemedicine Association leader calls for permanent policy fix

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A national telehealth leader says millions of Americans briefly lost access to their doctors — not because of technology, but because of politics.

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Kyle Zebley with the American Telemedicine Association says when Congress failed to extend Medicare's telehealth coverage in October, patients and providers were left in limbo.

SOT – Kyle Zebley / American Telemedicine Association

"On October 1st, patients across the country woke up to discover they had lost access to their doctors overnight," Zebley said. "Not because of a technological failure or malpractice, but because of politics. That morning of October 1st, Medicare telehealth flexibilities, the lifeline that millions of Americans had come to rely on simply expired."
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Zebley says it's time to make telehealth coverage permanent, calling it a rare bipartisan, health care success story that's proven to expand access and lower costs. He spoke during the OSF OnCall Digital Health Symposium hosted by OSF HealthCare in Peoria.