

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

**H.B. 209**  
**Mar 2, 2021**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH10086-MRa-61A

Short Title: Support Statewide Telepsychiatry Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives K. Baker, Lambeth, White, and Sasser (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
3 SERVICES TO EXPAND THE STATEWIDE TELEPSYCHIATRY PROGRAM  
4 (NC-STEP).  
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
7 Health and Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural  
8 Health, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in recurring funds for each year of the  
9 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, to be allocated to the East Carolina University Center for  
10 Telepsychiatry and e-Behavioral Health for the statewide telepsychiatry program established  
11 under G.S. 143B-139.4B, known as NC-STeP. These funds shall be used to establish five new  
12 STeP program sites in underserved areas across the state, in an integrated care model of  
13 community-based behavioral health. The program will be embedded in currently operational  
14 primary care clinics and will provide evidence-based, outpatient mental health care to patients  
15 who currently lack access to this care.  
16 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

