

A. DETAIL OUTLINE

1. Part 1: Newsletter

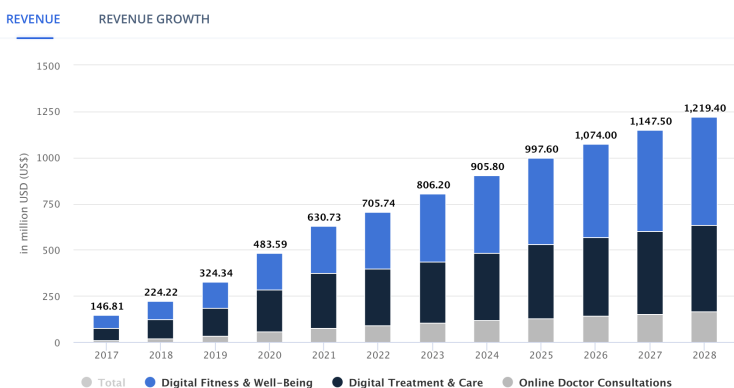
- **Header:** Include a clear and visually appealing header featuring the name of the letter and logo of the 'Speak Truth' lobby group.

a. Introduction:

- 4-5 first sentences:
- Start with a concise and engaging introduction. Capture the reader's attention with a relevant quote, a thought-provoking statement, or a striking fact about the policy initiative.
- Clearly state the specific policy initiative you are addressing and the stance you will take (for, against, or with modifications). Make your position explicit from the beginning.

Example:

- Healthcare access disparities remain a public policy challenge in Vietnam. Rural and lower-income populations face barriers to in-person care due to transportation costs and scarce medical resources in remote locales (Nguyen et al., 2022).
- Telehealth has emerged as an innovative modality to improve access by delivering virtual care using technologies like videoconferencing. This analysis examines a proposed nationwide subsidized telehealth policy for Vietnam using an economic evaluation framework, weighing projected benefits against expected costs and limitations.



b. Explanation of the Policy

- 3-4 next sentences: Provide a clear explanation of the policy initiative. Ensure that the general reader can grasp its main objectives and how it is intended to work.

- Include any key details about the policy, such as its scope, eligibility criteria, and intended beneficiaries. If it's a complex policy, consider using flowcharts or diagrams to simplify the explanation.

Example:

- Telehealth refers to the remote delivery of healthcare services through telecommunications technologies like video conferencing, telephone, and mobile devices. It allows patients to access medical consultations, diagnoses, treatment, prescriptions, and referrals from healthcare providers without requiring an in-person visit. Under a free telehealth policy, citizens can utilize telehealth services fully subsidized by the government, eliminating any out-of-pocket fees.

c. Potential Impact

- **4-5 next sentences (Idea 1):** Offer an objective analysis of the potential economic impact. Use a combination of data, examples, and economic models to substantiate your analysis.
- Discuss both short-term and long-term effects. Assess how the policy might affect key macroeconomic indicators like GDP, inflation, and employment.

Example:

Short-term impact:

- Increased government healthcare expenditures to subsidize telehealth consultations, potentially increasing budget deficit if new revenue sources are not established. Government telehealth spending in OECD countries estimated to have increased 28% in 2020 due to subsidies during pandemic ([Source](#))
- Alleviated burden on in-person healthcare infrastructure with some care shifted to telehealth, improving capacity. Modeling suggests expanded Medicare coverage for telehealth in recent policy reduced hospitalizations by 8.7% in targeted conditions ([Source](#))
- Productivity benefits as those with minor conditions can receive timely care and quicker return to work ([Source](#))

Long-term impact:

- Improved population health outcomes and life expectancy due to increased preventative care and chronic disease management through telehealth. This expands workforce productivity. VA hospital found significant reductions in admissions, transportations costs and mortality after enrollment in home telemonitoring program over 4 years ([source](#))

- Potential cost savings on expenses like Emergency Department visits and hospital readmissions as telehealth provides continuous care. Econsult research projects national cost savings from telehealth replacing in-person care could reach \$100 billion over next 25 years in US ([Source](#))
- Tech innovation spurred by increased adoption and use of telehealth platforms. Wider digitalization supports economic modernization.
- **2-3 next sentences (Idea 2):** Compare the proposed policy with similar policies implemented in other countries, discussing the outcomes.

Example:

United States:

- A University of Michigan study found that telehealth increased access to primary care by up to 22% in rural areas and decreased emergency room visits by up to 71% (Doarn et al., 2021).
- d. Benefits of the policy**
- 3-4 next sentences: Present compelling arguments and evidence in favor of the policy. Draw on data, studies, and real-world examples to support your claims.
- Highlight the anticipated benefits, such as improved access to healthcare, poverty reduction, or environmental sustainability.

Example:

- Improves workforce productivity by allowing employees to receive care without taking as much time off work. Reduces absenteeism.
- Potential to lower overall healthcare costs in the long run by enabling better preventive care and chronic disease management.
- Telehealth development supports growth of Vietnam's health technology sector and digital economy.
- Compare the proposed policy with similar policies implemented in other countries, discussing the outcomes.

Example:

e. Barriers and cost of the policy

- 4-5 next sentences: Identify and emphasize potential drawbacks or unintended consequences of the policy. Use facts and logic to make your case.
- Consider the economic, social, and environmental risks associated with the policy. Discuss how it might lead to inefficiencies, distortions, or unintended negative effects.

Example:

- Upfront costs of subsidized care places strain on the government budget in the short term.
- Risk of overutilization and excess healthcare spending if telehealth use is not appropriately managed.
- Lag in economic returns as population health improvements happen over a longer time frame.
- Less revenue for traditional in-person healthcare delivery sectors as some volume shifts to telehealth.

f. Final Statement

- 2-3 next sentences: - Restate your position clearly, reiterating whether the policy should or should not be implemented.
- Provide a concise summary of the rationale behind your stance. Connect it to the preceding sections on potential impact, benefits, and drawbacks.

Example: The benefits of expanded access, improved outcomes, and workforce productivity outweigh concerns about overutilization, fraud, and short-term costs. Targeted implementation focused on rural communities and low-income groups would balance cost considerations with the need to reduce disparities.

- 2-3 last sentences: Discuss any potential costs associated with the policy and how these will be covered. Elaborate on the potential costs associated with the policy initiative. Break down these costs into categories, such as initial implementation costs, ongoing operational expenses, and potential externalities. Present these categories with diagrams or flowchart. Analyze how these costs are expected to be financed. Explore potential funding sources, whether through taxation, government expenditure, public-private partnerships, or other means.
- If relevant, address potential costs and financing. Discuss how these will be covered and who might be affected by any associated financial burdens.

Example:

Key costs:

- + subsidizing consultations
- + platform development and maintenance
- + training providers
- + public awareness campaigns.

Sources to cover expenses

- telehealth taxes on digital services
- redirecting in-person delivery savings
- public-private partnerships.

2. Page 2: Technical Companion Document

a. Introduction

- 2-3 first sentences: Begin by restating the policy initiative you are addressing and restate your position as outlined in the newsletter.
- Use this introduction as an opportunity to engage readers and provide context for the detailed analysis that follows.

Example: This technical appendix expands on the analysis of a proposed universal telehealth policy for Vietnam outlined in the policy newsletter. The recommended position is a phased nationwide rollout prioritizing underserved areas first.

b. Theoretical Framework:

- 4-5 next sentences: Provide an in-depth explanation of the economic theory or model you used to evaluate the policy's impact. Elaborate on the assumptions and principles underpinning the model.

Tips: Here are several economic models:

- Keynesian Cross Model: assess the short-run effects of fiscal policy changes on output and employment
- Phillips Curve: analyze the short-run impact of monetary or fiscal policies on inflation and unemployment.
- Discuss how the chosen framework is relevant to the specific policy initiative. Explain the key variables and relationships within the model.

Example:

- 1-2 next sentences: Offer insights into any simplifications or assumptions made when applying the theory to real-world policy.

Example: The economic rationale draws on Grossman's model of health capital (Grossman, 1972). It views health as a durable capital stock determined by investments in care. Telehealth enhances access to care services that improve health stock. A Solow growth model also suggests telehealth can increase economy-wide productivity by improving population health and labor force capacity over time (Bloom et al., 2004).

However, assumptions about perfectly informed utilization may be unrealistic. Moral hazard issues require oversight on overuse. Externality valuation also presents challenges.

c. Data Analysis

- 5-6 last sentences: Conduct a thorough examination of the data and graphs featured in the newsletter, emphasizing their significance.
- Describe the sources of the data, their credibility, and the methodologies used for data collection.
- Highlight any trends, patterns, or correlations in the data that support your arguments regarding the policy's potential impact.

Example: Telehealth consultation trends in the US and Asia demonstrate expanded access and appropriate use after initial overutilization (Doarn et al., 2021; Srivastava et al., 2018). Figures project long-term Vietnamese health spending versus GDP scenarios under telehealth adoption. Methodologies combine meta-analysis of telehealth impact evaluations with machine learning for predictive modeling.

The data indicates sizable increases in access and health-related productivity from telehealth adoption. But program integrity efforts are still needed to curb unnecessary usage. On balance, investment benefits outweigh costs over a 10-year horizon.

B. TIPS & TRICKS

- Use charts and graphs to illustrate your points, making data more accessible to your audience.
- Ensure that both the newsletter and the technical companion document are well-organized, concise, and thoroughly researched. Your arguments should be well-supported with credible sources and data. Additionally, maintain clarity and coherence in your writing, making it easy for readers to follow your position and reasoning.

- Each section should naturally lead to the next, building a coherent argument for your position on the policy initiative. Additionally, make use of headings, bullet points, and visuals for readability and clarity.

C. FOOD FOR HUNGRY THOUGHTS

Based on your chosen topics, there are various journal articles and reports to be explored. Below are some reliable sources for you to find relevant articles and reports to your chosen topics.

1. JSTOR Journal Articles - Repository of academic journal articles across disciplines:
<https://www.jstor.org/>
2. NBER Working Papers - Cutting edge economic research from top scholars:
<https://www.nber.org/papers>
3. SSRN Working Papers - Multidisciplinary research paper repository:
<https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/>