



November 25, 2020

Senator Todd Lakey
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0081

Representative Gayann DeMordaunt
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0081

RE: TELEMEDICINE INDUSTRY INPUT ON PENDING TELEHEALTH LEGISLATION

Dear Senator Lakey, Representative DeMordaunt, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The American Telemedicine Association (ATA) applauds the Idaho legislature for actively working to advance telehealth legislation. As the only organization completely focused on advancing telehealth, the ATA is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable, and appropriate care when and where they need it, enabling the system to do more good for more people. On behalf of the ATA, and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing in support of the draft telehealth legislation now being considered by your committee, including the new section titled "Interstate Telehealth".

The ATA represents a broad and inclusive network of technology solution providers, delivery systems and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working together to advance adoption of telehealth, promote responsible policy, advocate for government and market normalization, and provide education and resources to help integrate virtual care into emerging value-based delivery models. Telehealth provides a pathway to improve access to health care for Idaho residents including individuals:

- In rural areas: Individuals may not have the regular transportation or work schedules to allow them to travel long distances for quality health care, particularly specialists.
- With challenging work or family schedules: Individuals may not be able to seek care because of challenging work schedules or commitments to care for children or aging relatives.
- Who are homebound or have limited mobility: Individuals may have difficulty seeking care because of disabilities or health problems.
- Who are embarrassed or anxious in seeking care: Individuals may be intimidated or anxious in seeking in-person care. This may be particularly true for sensitive services including behavioral health and particular health services for men and women.



The ATA acknowledges and appreciates the fact that Idaho was an early leader in the nation with the *Telehealth Access Act in 2015* under the leadership of Senator Fred Martin. As you may be aware, last year Florida expanded telehealth licensing and allowed greater access to qualified medical professionals to provide appropriate care through telehealth technologies, similar in intent to the draft legislation now under consideration. The Florida bill that became law in 2019, [HB 23](#), authorizes Florida licensed health care professionals, as well as those licensed under a multistate health care licensure compact of which Florida is a member, to use telehealth to deliver health care services within their respective scopes of practice. The bill has in place language to provide for oversight of the out of state physicians thru the appropriate Board which is also an issue that Idaho wishes to address. The bill also established standards of practice for services provided using telehealth, including patient examination, record-keeping, and controlled substances prescribing. Florida HB 23 is a good model for Idaho as it has worked as intended to the benefit of patients and providers.

Idaho has clearly been a leader in providing telehealth services and we strongly support your efforts. Passage of the draft telehealth bill, including the "Interstate Telehealth" section, will ensure your great state maintains its leadership role. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the telehealth industry's perspective, please contact kzebley@americantelemed.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association

cc:

Sen. Lori Den Hartog
Sen. Fred Martin
Sen. Grant Burgoyne
Rep. Randy Armstrong
Rep. Julianne Young
Rep. Elaine Smith