



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Barto  
Chairwoman, Arizona Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Arizona State Capitol  
1700 W Washington St., Room 302  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Tyler Pace  
Vice Chairman, Arizona Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Arizona State Capitol  
1700 W Washington St., Room 303  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1145**

Dear Madame Chair Barto and Vice Chairman Pace,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1145. This proposed legislation furthers Arizona's permissive approach to telemedicine, allowing practitioners to utilize an assortment of technologies to provide affordable, quality health care to patients across the state.

The ATA is the only national organization whose mission revolves solely around the advancement of telehealth in the United States. Our utmost priority is ensuring that Americans have the ability to receive affordable, first-rate health care when and where they need it. The expansion of telehealth infrastructure around the country eases strain on the overburdened health care system, enabling it to provide care for millions more patients every year in an efficient and effective manner. The ATA represents a diverse and expansive coalition of technology solution providers and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working together to promote the implementation of telehealth across the country, endorse responsible telehealth policy, encourage government and market normalization, and deliver education and resources designed to further the integration of virtual care through the use of various innovative technologies.

The ATA applauds the legislature's efforts to promote technology-neutral language in the state of Arizona. This bill removes restrictive mandates from Arizona's telemedicine regulation, eliminating language which requires practitioners to use real-time, audiovisual technologies to prescribe, dispense, or furnish prescription medications. Moreover, it brings Arizona's statute for prescriptions provided via telemedicine in line with its current definition of telemedicine, one



which allows for the practice of health care delivery through interactive audio, video or data communications.

In the context of the ongoing pandemic, it is essential that Arizonans are able to access affordable and high-quality care easily and quickly. By aligning Arizona's code covering prescriptions provided online with the state's permissive definition of telemedicine, the legislature will enhance their constituents' ability to utilize the technologies available to them to get the prescriptions they need, all without forcing them to leave their homes. Additionally, the technology-neutral language of the bill will remove barriers to access for citizens in rural areas who do not have access to the high-speed internet required to engage in real-time audiovisual communication and allow patients and practitioners to discuss diagnoses and treatments on their own time. Regardless of the modality used to deliver care, legal frameworks should not mandate which technologies are more appropriate than others when telehealth services are being provided so long as the standard of care is met. SB 1145 creates an environment in which Arizonans can enjoy the full benefits of innovative telehealth technologies.

The ATA is confident that SB 1145 will increase access to care across Arizona. Simultaneously, the bill will enhance the efficiency of Arizona's health care industry by allowing more patients to get the care they want, need, and deserve. Arizona's increasingly inclusive regulatory framework will promote the innovation and use of telehealth technologies in the state and benefit patients and practitioners alike by creating a patient-centered health care experience.

Again, we thank you for your advocacy on telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to vote favorably on SB 1145. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you advance common-sense telehealth policy in Arizona. If you have any questions or would like engage in additional discussions surrounding the telehealth industry's perspective, please contact me at [kzebley@americantelemed.org](mailto:kzebley@americantelemed.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley  
Public Policy Director  
American Telemedicine Association