



February 24, 2021

The Honorable Fred S. Martin
Chair, Idaho Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Idaho State Senate
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Peter Riggs
Vice Chair, Idaho Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Idaho State Senate
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83702

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1127

Chair Martin and Vice Chair Riggs:

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 1127. The ATA is the only national organization completely focused on advancing telehealth. We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable, and high-quality care whenever and wherever they need it. This empowers the health care system to provide services to millions more patients every year in an efficacious manner. The ATA represents a broad and inclusive coalition of technology solution providers and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working to advance industry 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 modalities.

Senate Bill 1127 serves as an important and rational expansion of Idaho's state telehealth policy. The proposed legislation revises the Idaho Telehealth Access Act, permitting provider-patient relationships to be established through the use of any telehealth technology that is sufficient to diagnose and appropriate to treat the patient with the condition presented so long as the services provided are within the standard of care.

Across the United States, patients and consumers are seeking more cost-effective and efficient ways to access the health care they need. More recently, innovative telehealth technologies have enabled practitioners and patients to interact with each other at any place and any time from the comfort and safety of their private residences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Using appropriate technologies to eliminate barriers to access to health care is an effective means to expand access to health care, especially for the unserved and underserved.



The ATA applauds the legislature's efforts to expand Idaho residents' access to affordable, quality health care. Senate Bill 1127 takes the important step of permitting practitioners to establish a valid professional relationship with patients through the use of the appropriate telehealth technologies. So long as the patient has consented to the use of telehealth as an acceptable mode of delivering health care services and the patient and practitioner have identified themselves and disclosed the appropriate credentials, a practitioner and patient should not be prevented from establishing a professional relationship through the appropriate technologies. This is similar language advanced by the Idaho House of Representatives considered by the Idaho Senate last year. Other states are empowering technology in virtual health care through enabling language as proposed in SB 1127. It is time that Idaho, once a national leader in state telehealth policy, take this important public policy step.

Again, we thank you for your support of telehealth in Idaho. In the context of the ongoing health crisis, it is essential that Idaho residents have safe and efficacious access to the health care they need and deserve. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 1127 in the interest of expanding easy and efficient access to affordable, quality health care across the state. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Idaho. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the telehealth industry's perspective, please contact me at kzebley@americantelemed.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association