



February 8, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman, Maryland Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., 2 West Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice-Chairwoman, Maryland Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., 2 West Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 568

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Madame Vice-Chair Kagan,

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 568, which enables out-of-state providers to deliver care to patients in Maryland via the appropriate telehealth technologies.

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 when and where 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 568 serves as an important addition to Maryland's state telehealth policy. The proposed legislation amends the Health Occupations Code to allow licensed out-of-state practitioners to care for Maryland residents through the use of telehealth technologies instead of having to obtain a Maryland license.

Across the United States, patients and consumers are seeking more affordable and efficient ways to access the health care they need. Using innovative telehealth technologies, practitioners and patients are able to interact with each other at any place and any time from the comfort and safety of their private residences.

The ATA applauds the legislature's efforts to expand Maryland residents' access to affordable, quality care by expanding the base of available licensed practitioners. Senate Bill 568 takes an important step in



the right direction in knocking down artificial barriers to health care access. Technology offers significant promise to patients across the country in increasing access to affordable, quality care by expanding the availability of scarce licensed practitioners through telehealth. In-state licensure requirements have been proven to be a barrier for out-of-state providers crossing state borders to treat patients. Senate Bill 568 takes an important step to facilitate a solution to that public policy challenge. The ATA applauds your commitment to creating more accessible pathways for Marylanders to receive the care they need and deserve.

Again, we thank you for your support of telehealth in Maryland. In the context of the ongoing health crisis, it is essential that Maryland residents can access their much-needed health care as quickly and safely as possible. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 568 in the interest of expanding Maryland residents' easy and efficient access to affordable, quality health care. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Maryland. 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".

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association