



February 23, 2021

The Honorable Liz Krueger
Chairwoman, New York Senate Finance Committee
New York State Capitol
172 State Street, Room 416
Albany, NY 12247

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL S02507

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 S02507 as it relates to telehealth.

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 02507 is an important enhancement of New York's state telehealth policy. Among other provisions, the proposed legislation allows practitioners located in contiguous states in the Northeast region to deliver telehealth services to patients in New York and mandates that insurance plans in the state provide adequate network coverage for telehealth services.

As patients and consumers seek out more convenient and affordable ways to access health care, telehealth providers have come to rely on a variety of technological modalities to deliver care. By creating an interstate licensure program that grants licensure to out-of-state health care providers that maintain good standing, the legislature opens up opportunities for these providers to deliver telehealth services in New York, especially during health emergencies. This will help patients across the state connect with practitioners whenever and wherever their need for care arises. Programs such as the one described in the proposed legislation help to remove arbitrary geographical barriers that would limit New York residents' access to the health care services, including those related to mental health, that they want, need, and deserve. The ATA believes that patients should be able to receive virtual care from their preferred provider, regardless of that provider's physical location, so long as the practitioners are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care and can still be held accountable by the appropriate Boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment.

Furthermore, the ATA commends the legislature's efforts to mandate that insurance plans provide coverage for services provided via the appropriate telehealth technologies. Mandating that health insurance plans cover telehealth services to the same extent as services provided in person would make it easier for New York residents to access quality health care without having to worry about the potential financial burdens associated with receiving that care.



Again, we thank you for your support of telehealth in New York. In the context of the ongoing health crisis, it is essential that New York residents have safe and efficacious access to their much-needed health care services. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 02507 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 New York. 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