



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Bronna Kahle
Chairwoman, Michigan House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave., Room N-991
Lansing, MI 48933

The Honorable Luke Meerman
Vice-Chairman, Michigan House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave., Room N-1192
Lansing, MI 48933

The Honorable Angela Witwer
Vice-Chairwoman, Michigan House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Ave., Room N-1090
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 4356

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 4356.

The ATA is the only organization dedicated solely to the advancement of telemedicine in the United States. Our primary objective is to provide Americans with affordable, high-quality health care, including ocular care, whenever and wherever they need it. The use of telemedicine services eases the burden placed on the nation's health care infrastructure, allowing the system to deliver services to millions more patients efficiently and effectively. 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 telemedicine across the country, endorse responsible telemedicine 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 enable the use of telemedicine technologies in the practice of eye care in Michigan. The proposed legislation allows eye doctors to examine and evaluate their patients using telemedicine so long as the standard of care is maintained at the same level as if the examination and evaluation were performed in person. The language in House Bill 4356 does not alter the standard of care in Michigan or allow practitioners to engage in a comprehensive eye examination via telemedicine technologies. Instead, it enables eye doctors to renew their patients' contact lens



prescriptions virtually. Simply put, allowing licensed practitioners to provide these ocular care services via the appropriate technologies would grant Michigan residents the opportunity to access high-quality, affordable health care at any place and any time, including from the comfort and safety of their homes. This is yet another example as to how innovative technologies can expand access to affordable, quality care.

We thank you for your efforts to expand telemedicine in Michigan. In the context of the ongoing pandemic, it is essential that state legislatures create pathways for their citizens to access their much-needed health care services as easily and efficiently as possible. Please let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to adopt sensible telemedicine policy in Michigan. 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 that reads "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association