



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Rhonda Fields
Chair, Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Colorado State Senate
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 346
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Joann Ginal
Vice Chair, Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Colorado State Senate
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 346
Denver, CO 80203

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1190

Dear Chair Fields and Vice Chair Ginal,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to voice our support for House Bill 1190.

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 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.

House Bill 1190 serves as a rational expansion of Colorado's telemedicine policy. The proposed legislation amends the definition of telemedicine in the Medical Practices Act, allowing practitioners to utilize technologies that are compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) in the delivery of telemedicine services. The language in the bill explicitly approves the use of store-and-forward modalities and remote patient monitoring technologies in the practice of telemedicine.

Across the country, providers are relying increasingly on asynchronous (or store-and-forward) telemedicine technologies to perform patient evaluations and diagnoses in a variety of fields. In addition, medical professionals are utilizing remote patient monitoring technologies to move care out of the hospital, clinic, or doctor's office and into the home, where providers can monitor, collect, and analyze a



patient's physiologic data to create care management plans for patients, especially those with chronic conditions.

The ATA applauds the effort of the legislature to expand Coloradans' access to high-quality, affordable health care. Our organization maintains that state legislatures should not determine which technologies are more appropriate than others for use in the delivery of telemedicine services. Instead, policymakers should defer this decision to the licensed practitioner who can determine, in his or her professional opinion, which technologies are necessary to provide care that meets the standard of care for the condition presented by the patient.

Additionally, the use of asynchronous technologies, which can be utilized even with mediocre bandwidth connections, allows patients who lack access to reliable internet connections to communicate effectively with their providers from the comfort of their homes. Currently, almost 400,000 Coloradans do not have consistent access to high-speed internet connections. By enabling Colorado residents to receive telemedicine services through the use of asynchronous modalities, the legislature ensures that unserved and underserved Coloradans receive the same level of access to high-quality health care as those who are able to take advantage of more reliable internet connections.

We thank you for your strong support of telemedicine in Colorado. In approving this technologically permissive definition of telemedicine, Colorado will become one of the most telemedicine-friendly states in the nation, creating a patient-centered health care experience and opening the door to future technological innovations in the process. We urge you and your colleagues to pass House Bill 1190 in the interest of expanding Coloradans' access to affordable, high-quality health care. Please let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to adopt sensible telemedicine policy in Colorado. 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