



May 27, 2021

The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
Chair, New York Senate Health Committee
New York State Senate
172 State Street, Room 502C
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Patrick M. Gallivan
Ranking Member, New York Senate Health Committee
New York State Capitol Legislative Office Building
198 State Street, Room 311
Albany, NY 12247

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 6846

Dear Chair Rivera and Senator Gallivan,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to voice our strong support for Senate Bill 6846.

The ATA is the only national organization whose mission revolves solely around the advancement of telehealth in the United States. Our utmost priority is ensuring that Americans have the ability to receive affordable, first-rate health care when and where they need it. The expansion of telehealth infrastructure around the country eases strain on the overburdened health care system, enabling it to provide care for millions more patients every year in an efficient and effective manner. 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 telehealth across the country, endorse responsible telehealth 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.

Senate Bill 6846 represents a step forward for New York's state telehealth policy. The proposed legislation would allow any Medicaid provider who is licensed, certified, registered, authorized or credentialed to provide a health care service in the state to deliver health care services via telehealth technologies so long as these providers determine that the use of telehealth is clinically appropriate and offers these telehealth services to a consenting patient.

We applaud this effort to clarify that all qualified licensed Medicaid providers may practice using telehealth. By stating explicitly that Medicaid providers from any medical field are allowed to render care virtually, the legislature makes it significantly easier for New Yorkers to access their much-needed health care services in a cost-effective and convenient manner. In the context of the ongoing health crisis, it is



essential that New York residents have access to the affordable, high-quality health care they need and deserve. Senate Bill 6846 will ensure that any state-licensed Medicaid provider that wants to treat patients remotely can do so without statutory limitation.

We thank you for your support of telehealth in New York. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 6846 in the interest of expanding easy and efficient access to affordable, high-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 "Keith Zebley".