



The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman, MD
Chair, Ohio Senate Health Committee
Ohio State Senate
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus OH, 43215

RE: ATA SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONS IN HOUSE BILL 110

Dear Senator Huffman,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to voice our support for provisions in House Bill 110 relating to telehealth.

The ATA is the only organization dedicated solely to the advancement of telehealth 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 telehealth services eases the burden placed on the nation's health care infrastructure, allowing the system to deliver services to 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.

Our organization believes that language in House Bill 110 represents a step forward for Ohio's state telehealth policy. A revision to Sec. 4731.36(A)(3) would expand Ohioans' access to high-quality, affordable health care services by allowing physicians located and licensed in another state to provide consultation to any Ohio-licensed physician regardless of whether or not that Ohio-licensed physician is responsible for the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of the patient who is the subject of the consultation.

Today in Ohio, a patient can seek a medical second opinion from any Ohio-licensed medical professional physically located in the state or travel outside the state to obtain one from a medical professional who may not be licensed in Ohio. In neither instance is a patient required to access a medical second opinion through the same treating physician who rendered the initial diagnosis and treatment plan. For patients that may choose to seek a second opinion from a medical expert, especially patients with serious diseases, out-of-state travel is often expensive and stressful. Efficacious use of remote technology can help those patients get the care they need when they need it. Language in House Bill 110 would allow out-of-state medical experts not licensed in Ohio to consult with any Ohio-licensed physician. This would permit an Ohio patient to seek a medical second opinion from an out-of-state licensed medical professional through an Ohio-licensed physician that is not the same treating physician who rendered the diagnosis subject to that second opinion. Patients may not want their treating physician to know that a second opinion is being sought for a variety of reasons. The provision in House Bill 110 respects patients' privacy and choice



while ensuring that an Ohio-licensed physician remains involved with the patient and responsible for the entirety of the remote encounter.

We thank you for your interest in telehealth. We urge you and your colleagues to approve this provision in House Bull 110 in the interest of expanding Ohio residents' access to affordable, high-quality health care. Please let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to adopt sensible telehealth policy in Ohio. 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", is written over a faint, light-colored circular watermark or seal.

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association

Cc: Rep. Bob Cupp, Rep. Tim Ginter, Rep. Scott Oelslager, Rep. Phil Plummer, Sen. Matt Huffman, Sen. Kirk Schuring, Sen. Matt Dolan, Sen. Theresa Gavarone