



February 10, 2022

The Honorable Sharon Cooper  
Chairwoman, Georgia House Committee on Health & Human Services  
Georgia House of Representatives  
206 Washington St. SW, Room 436  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Mark Newton  
Vice Chairman, Georgia House Committee on Health & Human Services  
Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square SW, Room 601-H  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 629**

Chairwoman Cooper and Vice Chairman Newton:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for House Bill 629.

ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, advances policy to ensure all individuals have permanent access to telehealth services across the care continuum. ATA Action supports the enactment of state and federal telehealth coverage and fair payment policies to secure telehealth access for all Americans, including those in rural and underserved communities. ATA Action recognizes that telehealth and virtual care have the potential to truly transform the health care delivery system – by improving patient outcomes, enhancing safety and effectiveness of care, addressing health disparities, and reducing costs – if only allowed to flourish.

House Bill 629 enables ophthalmologists to use telemedicine technologies in accordance with the applicable standard of care. This legislative change would pave the way for the expanded use of telemedicine technologies in the field of eye care.

ATA Action applauds the legislature's efforts to enable the use of innovative telemedicine modalities to deliver eye care services to Georgia patients. Allowing licensed practitioners to provide and prescribe ocular care via the appropriate technologies would grant Georgia residents the opportunity to access high-quality, affordable health care at any place and any time, whenever and wherever they need it. Permissive telemedicine statutes, such as the language proposed in House Bill 629, enable providers to reach patients in rural and underserved communities who lack access to the eye care they need.

We thank you for your efforts to expand access to eye care in Georgia. 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 practical telemedicine policy in Georgia. If you have any questions or would like to

**ATA ACTION**

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discuss the telemedicine industry's perspective further, please contact me at [kzebley@ataaction.org](mailto:kzebley@ataaction.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", is written over a light gray dotted background.

Kyle Zebley  
Executive Director  
ATA Action