



February 11, 2022

The Honorable Leon Howard
Chair, South Carolina House Medical, Military,
Public and Municipal Affairs Committee
Solomon Blatt Building
1105 Pendleton St., Room #425
Columbia, SC 29201
The Honorable J. Anne Perks

1st Vice Chair, South Carolina House Medical,
Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
Committee
Solomon Blatt Building
1105 Pendleton St., Room #434D
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Jonathon D. Hill
2nd Vice Chair, South Carolina House Medical,
Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
Committee
Solomon Blatt Building
1105 Pendleton St., Room #434C
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Wendell G. Gilliard
3rd Vice Chair, South Carolina House Medical,
Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
Committee
Solomon Blatt Building
1105 Pendleton St., Room #328D
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 4085

Dear Chair Howard, Vice Chair Perks, Vice Chair Hill, and Vice Chair Gilliard,

On behalf of the ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for House Bill 4085 relating to teledentistry.

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 – including teledentistry 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 4085 enacts the South Carolina Teledentistry Act. This act would serve as an important step forward for South Carolina's state teledentistry policy. Provisions in the bill enable teledentistry providers to deliver virtual care via both synchronous and asynchronous technologies. The bill also permits providers to establish dentist-patient relationships through the use of appropriate teledentistry modalities.

ATA Action applauds the Legislature for expanding South Carolina patients' access to high-quality dental care through remote technologies. Our organization believes that licensed practitioners should be able to utilize the full range of available telehealth technologies while delivering virtual care so long as the technologies being used are appropriate to meet the

ATA ACTION

901 N. Glebe Road, Ste 850 | Arlington, VA 22203
Info@ataaction.org



standard of care for the condition presented by the patient. Enabling South Carolina dentists to use the wide variety of appropriate teledentistry technologies while rendering virtual care will greatly expand access to much-needed dental care services, especially for those in rural and underserved communities. Moreover, we appreciate the Legislature’s efforts to enable providers to establish dentist-patient relationships via electronic communications. This provision will make it substantially easier for patients – especially those who do not have convenient access to a brick-and-mortar practice – to connect with dentists whenever and wherever they need to.

The legislation as drafted is consistent with similar teledentistry legislation enacted in other states. It also strikes a reasoned balance to affordable, quality oral care for unserved and underserved populations in the state through remote technologies and imperatives to protect patient safety.

We thank you for your support for teledentistry. We urge you to pass House Bill 4085 in the interest of ensuring easy and efficient access to high-quality dental care services. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense teledentistry policy in South Carolina. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telehealth industry’s perspective further, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

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

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action