



February 17, 2022

The Honorable David B. Hawk
Chair, Tennessee House Insurance Subcommittee
Tennessee House of Representatives
Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Suite 648
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1973

Dear Chair Hawk:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you express our support for House Bill 1973.

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 1973 would direct the bureau of TennCare to develop and implement a pilot program to provide remote patient monitoring services for maternal health care patients who are at high risk or who lack easy access to maternal health care providers.

ATA Action supports the Legislature's efforts to expand access to affordable, high-quality care through this innovative pilot program. Across the country, patients are using telehealth technologies to access high-quality health care more efficiently and affordably. Pilot programs such as the one outlined in House Bill 1973 enable patients to do just that. Allowing providers to monitor maternal health care patients remotely will make it substantially easier for patients – especially those in rural and underserved communities – to receive the services they need to ensure safe and healthy pregnancies. Instead of travelling long distances to see their preferred providers, maternal health care patients will be able to get high-quality, affordable care from the comfort of their own homes, and health care providers will be able to monitor Medicaid patient progress.

House Bill 1973 would put Tennessee on the forefront of telehealth innovation, making it a model for other states seeking to expand their residents' access to maternal health care services. We encourage the Legislature to pass the bill in the interest of ensuring all Tennessee mothers-to-be have access to the care they need and deserve. Thank you for your support of telehealth,

ATA ACTION

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and please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Tennessee. 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