

February 1, 2022

Representative Brad Barrett, Chairman Committee on Health Policy Indiana House of Representatives 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Senate Bill 251, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Dear Chairman Barrett,

On behalf of ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, I am writing to express support for *Senate Bill 251*. To date, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) has been enacted in 34 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Guam. ATA Action is pleased to see Indiana take an important step towards adopting the IMLC and expanding access to medical care and telehealth services.

ATA Action 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.

The IMLC offers an expedited and streamlined pathway to licensure for physicians who wish to practice both physically and remotely in multiple states. Utilizing telehealth improves continuity of care for both urban and rural patients in underserved communities who may not have access to care otherwise. The IMLC is particularly important to enabling and delivering efficient, 21^{st} century medical care across state lines using digital health technologies.

Furthermore, while ATA Action continues to support the IMLC and other professional licensure compacts, we also support measures that streamline and accelerate the ability of out-of-state providers to become licensed, certified, or registered to practice in Indiana. To that end, we encourage the legislature to continue exploring options to reduce the often-antediluvian barriers facing the highly qualified providers who are otherwise willing and able to serve patients in Indiana but are presently unable to do so.

We applaud your efforts for taking action to advance this vital legislation and encourage all Indiana legislators to vote in favor of these bills. We believe the IMLC not only would continue to protect patients but also would help drive better care coordination and healthcare outcomes for constituents throughout the state.



If you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA Action's perspective on this critical issue, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

Sincerely,

Kyle Zebley

Executive Director

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