



May 10, 2022

The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
Chair, New York Senate Health Committee
New York State Senate
172 State Street, Room 502C
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Patrick M. Gallivan
Ranking Member, New York Senate Health Committee
New York State Capitol Legislative Office Building
198 State Street, Room 311
Albany, NY 12247

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 6846A

Dear Chair Rivera and Senator Gallivan,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to voice our strong support for Senate Bill 6846A.

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.

Senate Bill 6846A represents an important step forward for New York's state telehealth policy. The proposed legislation would allow any Medicaid provider who is licensed, certified, registered, authorized or credentialed to provide a health care service in the state to deliver health care services via telehealth technologies so long as these providers determine that the use of telehealth is clinically appropriate.

We applaud this effort to clarify that all qualified licensed Medicaid providers may practice using telehealth. By stating explicitly that Medicaid providers from any medical field are allowed to render care virtually, the legislature makes it significantly easier for New Yorkers to access their much-needed health care services in a cost-effective and convenient manner. In the context of the ongoing shortage of health care providers, especially in the mental health field, it is essential that New York residents have access to the affordable, high-quality health care they

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need and deserve. Senate Bill 6846A will ensure that any state-licensed Medicaid provider that wants to treat patients remotely can do so without statutory limitation.

We thank you for your support of telehealth in New York. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 6846A in the interest of expanding easy and efficient access to affordable, high-quality health care across the state. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in New York. If you have any questions or would like to engage in additional discussion regarding the telehealth industry's perspective, 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