



January 16, 2023

The Honorable Robert Orrock
House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
Pocahontas Building
900 E. Main Street, Room #E309
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1602

Dear Chair Orrock and Vice Chair Head,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for House Bill 1602 relating to a Virginia-licensed provider's ability to enroll in Virginia Medicaid to provide health care services via telehealth.

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 1602 serves as a vital step forward for ensuring patient equity to access regardless of economic status in Virginia's telemedicine policy. The proposed legislation establishes providers licensed and in good standing in Virginia are not required to maintain a physical presence or service address in the state to be eligible to enroll as a Medicaid provider. This will provide Medicaid enrollees with increased flexibility when searching for convenient healthcare services.

ATA Action applauds the legislature for seeking to establish equitable access to telemedicine by increasing the telehealth provider pool for Medicaid consumers. Increasing the ease of access to telehealth services for Medicaid enrollees will significantly improve health outcomes.

Thank you for your support for telemedicine. We support the passage of this bill as outlined above in the interest of expanding Virginia Medicaid patients' access to affordable, high-quality care. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telemedicine policy in Virginia. If you have any questions or would like to engage in additional discussion regarding the telemedicine industry's perspective, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

ATA ACTION

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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