



January 25, 2023

The Honorable A. Cory Maloy
Chair, Utah House Business and Labor Committee
Utah House of Representatives
283 E 500 N,
Lehi, UT, 84043
corymaloy@le.utah.gov

The Honorable Stephen L. Whyte
Vice Chair, Utah House Business and Labor Committee
Utah House of Representatives
913 S Iris Lane,
Mapleton, UT, 84664
swhyte@le.utah.gov

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HB 159

Dear Chair Maloy and Vice Chair Whyte,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of House Bill 159 relating to 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 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.

As patients and consumers seek out more convenient and affordable ways to access health care, telehealth providers have come to rely on a variety of technological modalities to deliver care. Allowing out-of-state health care providers that maintain good standing in their own state, the opportunity to deliver telehealth services in Utah will help patients across the state connect with practitioners whenever and wherever their need for care arises. This legislation helps to remove arbitrary geographical barriers that would limit Utah residents' access to the health care services they want, need, and deserve. ATA Action believes that patients should be able to receive virtual care from their preferred provider, regardless of that provider's physical location, so long as the practitioners are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care and can still be held accountable by the appropriate Boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment.

ATA Action believes that this legislation will help create a health care environment in which Utah can access much-needed health services as efficiently and effectively as possible, without compromising the standard of care. House Bill 159 would serve as an important step forward for telehealth care and patient choice in Utah.

ATA ACTION

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge you to pass House Bill 159 in the interest of expanding Utah patients' access to high-quality, affordable health care. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Utah. 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 dotted rectangular background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action