



February 8, 2023,

The Honorable Lee Hawkins  
Chairman, House Committee on Health  
Georgia House of Representatives  
401-C State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Mark Newton  
Vice Chairman, House Committee on Health  
Georgia House of Representatives  
401-D State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 203**

Dear Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Newton and members of the House Committee on Health:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for House Bill 203.

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.

House Bill 203 serves as a step forward for Georgia's telemedicine policy as it applies to optometry and ophthalmology. The proposed legislation enables optometrists and ophthalmologists to conduct vision tests using telemedicine technologies in accordance with the applicable standard of care, paving the way for the expanded use of these innovative technologies in the field of eye care.

ATA Action applauds the legislature's efforts to enable the use of telemedicine technologies in the practice of eye care in Georgia. Our organization maintains that policymakers should not mandate which technological modalities practitioners may use while delivering care to their patients so long as the practitioners are providing services that meet the standard of care and fall within the scope of their practices. While House Bill 203 allows eye care providers to utilize telemedicine technologies to care for their patients, it makes no adjustments to the standards to which Georgia practitioners are held. Any licensed practitioner delivering care via telemedicine who fails to meet the standard of care for the condition presented by the patient could still be

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investigated and disciplined by the appropriate state licensing board. Simply put, allowing licensed practitioners to provide and prescribe ocular care services via the appropriate technologies would grant Georgia residents the opportunity to access high-quality, affordable health care at any place and any time, enabling providers to reach patients in underserved and unserved areas.

We thank you for your efforts to expand access to eye care in Georgia. It is essential that state legislatures create pathways for their citizens to access their much-needed health care services as easily and efficiently as possible. Please let us know how we can be helpful in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth policy in Georgia. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telemedicine industry's perspective further, please contact me at [kzebley@ataaction.org](mailto: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