



March 23, 2023

The Honorable Stephanie Klick
Chair, Texas House Committee on Public Health
Texas House of Representatives
1100 Congress Ave., Room E2.504
Austin, TX 78701
stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov

The Honorable Liz Campos
Vice Chair, Texas House Committee on Public Health
Texas House of Representatives
1100 Congress Ave., Room E1.206
Austin, TX 78701
liz.campos@house.texas.gov

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2727

Dear Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos and members of the House Committee on Public Health,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of House Bill 2727 relating to the provision of home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.

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.

ATA Action is appreciative of the legislature's efforts to expand Medicaid patients' access to home telemonitoring services by removing requirements related to patients' informal support systems and living situation and amending the statute to require the patient only experience one risk factor instead of the previously required two. These changes will make it much easier for Texas Medicaid patients to access high-quality telemonitoring care, improve patient outcomes and make it easier for providers to deliver the care that patients need and want. Additionally, increasing patient access to home telemonitoring services will help prevent and address emergency situations which could require patients to contact their healthcare provider for assistance or guidance, facilitating greater patient safety.

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Additionally, ATA Action appreciates the expansion of Texas Medicaid coverage to include home telemonitoring services equipment for temporary use at home by patients experiencing a high-risk pregnancy. Further facilitating providers to monitor maternal health care patients remotely will make it substantially easier for patients – especially those in rural and underserved communities – to receive the services they need to ensure safe and healthy pregnancies. Instead of travelling long distances to see their preferred providers, providing coverage for this equipment will make it easier for maternal care patients to get high-quality, affordable care from the comfort of their own homes, and health care providers will be more easily able to monitor Medicaid patient progress. We encourage the legislature to further consider if there is equipment for telemonitoring services which Medicaid could cover in addition to high-risk maternal care and other equipment currently covered by Medicaid in the interest of continuing to expand access to affordable healthcare for Texas patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge you to pass House Bill 2727 in the interest of expanding Texas Medicaid 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 Texas. 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 grid background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action