



April 12 2023

The Honorable Joe Baldacci
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Maine Legislature
House Majority Office
P.O. Box 1423,
Bangor, ME 04402

The Honorable Michele Meyer
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Maine Legislature
58 Odiorne Lane
Eliot, ME 03903

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENT 1059

Dear Chair Baldacci, Chair Meyer and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for Legislative Document 1059 regarding ultrasound and fetal nonstress telehealth services.

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.

ATA Action supports the Legislature's efforts to expand access to affordable, high-quality care by directing the Department of Health and Human Services to allow reimbursement for ultrasound and fetal nonstress test procedures through telehealth under the MaineCare Program. Across the country, patients are using telehealth technologies to access high-quality health care more efficiently and affordably. Allowing patients to be reimbursed for maternal telehealth care 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, maternal health care patients will be able to get high-quality, affordable care from the comfort of their own homes, and health care providers will be able to monitor MaineCare patient progress.

ATA ACTION

901 N. Glebe Road, Ste 850 | Arlington, VA 22203
Info@ataaction.org



Additionally, we encourage the legislature to further consider if there are other telehealth services, for maternal patients or for any patient condition, that the Department of Health and Human Services currently does not reimburse through MaineCare which would continue to increase patient access to affordable telehealth care if reimbursed.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to pass Legislative Document 1059 in the interest of expanding MaineCare 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 telehealth policy in Maine. 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