



May XX, 2023

The Honorable Richard D. Roth
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development
California State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Janet Nguyen
Vice-Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 7130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1369

Dear Chair Roth, Vice-Chair Nguyen and members of the Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of Assembly Bill 1369 relating to cross state licensure for patients with documented immediately life-threatening diseases and conditions that have not been accepted into a clinical trial nearest to their home for said disease/condition.

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 providers that maintain good standing in their own state the opportunity to deliver telehealth services in California under specific criterion will help eligible patients receive the vital, lifesaving care they need. This important legislation helps to remove arbitrary geographical barriers that would limit access to needed services and ATA Action recommends passing this legislation.

Undoubtedly, the ability for physicians to reach patients with life-threatening diseases in a convenient and cost-effective manner is important to reduce economic burden and can also critically improve overall care. Advancements in Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) and other telehealth platforms are making it easier to diagnose, monitor, and treat diseases, without patients having to travel long distances or take extensive time away from work and their families. Importantly, telehealth can enable access to care across state boundaries, providing rare disease patients the ability to meet with expert physicians located in other

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states. Assembly Bill 1369 would therefore provide patients with life-threatening diseases in California with access to the global wealth of expertise concerning their individual condition, without ever having to travel outside the state.

Furthermore, 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.

While we appreciate the additional flexibility provided to patients with documented immediately life-threatening diseases by AB 1369, this legislation falls short of providing all Californians with comprehensive access to telehealth services, beyond this extremely specific circumstance. ATA Action recommends that California adopt full cross-state licensure schemes such as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Nurse Licensure Compact, and the Counseling Compact and the Social Work Licensure Compact, which would provide Californians with greater access to licensed care services while ensuring safety and oversight by appropriate California licensure boards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge you to pass Assembly Bill 1369 in the interest of expanding California 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 California. 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 circular watermark.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action