



May 23, 2023

The Honorable André Jacque
Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov
Chair, Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism
Wisconsin State Senate
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Julian Bradley
Sen.Bradley@legis.wisconsin.gov
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism
Wisconsin State Senate
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 135

Dear Chair Jacque, Vice-Chair Bradley and members of the Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of Senate Bill 135 relating to licensure, with the added suggestion to amend the language to remove the residency requirement.

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 believes that this legislation would serve as a logical step forward for telehealth policy in Wisconsin by removing administrative barriers to licensed providers providing care to patients in need. By extending reciprocal licensing to allow licensed out-of-state health care providers that move to Wisconsin the opportunity to deliver healthcare services in Wisconsin, more providers will be able to deliver care to patients quicker and easier.

While this expansion of licensure reciprocity is a positive step forward, we encourage you to build on this step forward by removing the Wisconsin residency requirement for reciprocal credentials. 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 Wisconsin will help patients across the state connect with practitioners whenever and wherever their need

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for care arises. ATA Action asserts 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge you to pass Senate Bill 135 and consider removing the Wisconsin residency requirement from the bill language in the interest of expanding Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin. 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