



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Saud Anwar  
Co-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

The Honorable Cristin McCarthy Vahey  
Co-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HB 5198**

Dear Co-Chair Anwar, Co-Chair Vahey, and Members of the Joint Public Health Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to comment and express our support for HB 5198,

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.

HB 5198 will protect an important step forward for Connecticut's telehealth policy. The bill extends the sunset on provider's ability to provide services under the state's general telehealth services provider statute from 2024 to 2027. This will ensure that patients in Connecticut will continue to have access to high-quality telehealth services throughout the state without unnecessary interruptions.

ATA Action is pleased to see the extension of the sunset for telehealth provisions adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic until 2027, but urges the Legislature to consider making these provisions permanent by removing the sunset entirely. ATA Action supports the adoption of technology-neutral telemedicine policies that enable practitioners to utilize synchronous, (real-time) audio-visual or audio-only, and asynchronous (non-real-time) technologies in the delivery of care. ATA Action maintains that policy makers should not restrict the modalities which practitioners may use when providing care to patients, permitting licensed health care professionals to determine which technologies are sufficient to meet the standard of care for the condition presented by the patient. This will be especially beneficial for citizens without reliable internet access, due to broadband or personal technological limitations.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to support this legislation and consider removing the sunset entirely. Please let us know if there is anything that we can

**ATA ACTION**

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Telehealth Policy to Transform Healthcare

do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth policy in Connecticut. 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](mailto:kzebley@ataaction.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley  
Executive Director  
ATA Action

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