



March 22, 2024

The Honorable Patty Kim
Chair, Insurance Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
38A East Wing
P.O. Box 202103
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2103

The Honorable Tina Picket
Republican Chair, Insurance Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
315A Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202110
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2110

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1512

Dear Chair Kim, Chair Picket and members of the Insurance Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to you to express support for House Bill 1512.

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.

House Bill 1512 represents a step forward for Pennsylvania's telemedicine policy. The proposed legislation would require health insurance policies to provide coverage for telemedicine delivered by a participating network provider who provides a covered service via telemedicine consistent with the insurer's medical policies without the need for prior in-person care.

ATA Action applauds the legislature's efforts to expand Pennsylvanians' access to affordable, high-quality care by requiring health insurance policies to cover telemedicine services provided by a participating network provider, prohibiting health insurance policies from excluding a health care service for coverage simply because the service is provided through telemedicine. This provision will make it easier for Pennsylvania residents to access quality health care easily and effectively without having to worry about the potential financial burdens associated with receiving that care. ATA Action also supports the technology-neutral definition of telemedicine included in the bill for reimbursement purposes, allowing patients necessary flexibility and choice in their care, without concerns over their preferred modality not being covered by insurance.

ATA ACTION

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As far as the rate of reimbursement for telemedicine services is concerned, ATA Action maintains that state policymakers should set rational guidelines that are both fair to the provider of such services and reflect the cost savings offered to the health care system by the effective use of telemedicine technologies.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to support HB 1512 in the interest of ensuring easy and efficient access to high-quality telehealth services. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth positions in Pennsylvania. 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 circular watermark that contains the text "ATA ACTION".

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action