



March 20, 2024

The Honorable Joshua Miller
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street,
Providence, RI 02903
sen-miller@rilegislature.gov

The Honorable Bridget Valverde
Vice Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903
sen-valverde@rilegislature.gov

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 2619

Dear Chair Miller, Chair Valverde and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 2619. The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) has been enacted in 41 states and territories.¹ ATA Action is pleased to see Rhode Island take an important step towards adopting this compact and expanding access to care and 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 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.

The IMLC is an occupational licensure compact which allows professionals to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. The compacts address increased demand for physician care and authorizes in-person and telepractice across state lines. Utilizing telehealth services improves continuity of care for both urban and rural patients, especially those in underserved communities who may not have access otherwise. This is particularly important to enabling and delivering efficient, 21st century care across state lines using digital health technologies.

We applaud your consideration of this bill and encourage you to advance this legislation to enact the IMLC. We believe enacting this compact would not only continue to protect patients but also would help drive better care coordination and healthcare outcomes for constituents throughout the state. If

¹ Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. <https://www.imlcc.org/#>



you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA Action's perspective on this critical issue, 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 dotted grid background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action