



February 10, 2025

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee
The Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Vice Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee
The Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 83

Dear Chair Dunbar, Vice Chair Giessel and members of the Health & Social Services Committee

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to you to express our support for Senate Bill 83 regarding insurance coverage of telehealth care.

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.

SB 83 is a crucial step forward for Alaska's telehealth policy, requiring health care insurers to reimburse health care providers for services provided thorough telehealth on the same basis as comparable health care services provided in person. ATA Action applauds the Legislature's efforts to expand Alaskan patients' access to affordable, high-quality care by ensuring insurance coverage of telehealth care. This legislation will make it easier for Alaska residents to access quality health care easily and effectively without having to worry about the potential financial burdens associated with receiving that care.

As far as the rate of reimbursement for telehealth services is concerned, ATA Action maintains that state policymakers should set rational guidelines that are both fair to the provider of such

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Telehealth Policy to Transform Healthcare

services and reflect the cost savings offered to the health care system by the effective use of telehealth technologies.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to support this legislation. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth policy in Alaska. 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".

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action

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