



February 5, 2025

The Honorable Linda M. López
Chair, Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee
New Mexico Legislature
9132 Suncrest Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

The Honorable Martin Hickey
Vice Chair, Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee
New Mexico Legislature
P.O. Box 21608
Albuquerque, NM 87154

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 12

Dear Chair López, Vice Chair Hickey and members of the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to you to comment in support of Senate Bill 12.

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 coverage and fair payment 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.

Senate Bill 12 acts as a rational expansion of New Mexico's telehealth policy and further builds upon the comprehensive telehealth policy change enacted by the New Mexico Telehealth Act. Permitting out-of-state health care providers to provide second opinions and consultations for prospective treatment to New Mexico patients without telehealth licensure will grant patients increased flexibility and choice when seeking care and break down arbitrary geographic barriers to care via telehealth. Furthermore, patients seeking these consultations already have a New Mexico-licensed provider that performed the initial evaluation and diagnosis. Finally, by expanding the definition of "health care provider" SB 12 ensures that patients are able to access the full range of care necessary for their condition via telehealth.

This bill will be especially impactful for patients with rare conditions that may have difficulty accessing the care they need in their community or even in the state. Without these needed telehealth flexibilities patients could be forced to travel great distances at personal cost to seek

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the specialty care they need, or simply not be able to access that care. Our organization believes that New Mexicans should be able to receive virtual care from their preferred provider – regardless of that provider’s physical location – so long as the provider is licensed and in good standing and is utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care.

Thank you for your support of telehealth. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in New Mexico. 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 faint, light gray circular background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action