



January 6, 2025

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke
Senator, 23rd District
Virginia General Assembly
P.O. Box 9048
Hampton, VA 23670

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 758

Dear Senator Locke,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to you to express our support for Senate Bill 758.

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.

Our organization believes that SB 758 would be a rational step forward for telehealth policy in Virginia. By expanding Medicaid coverage for remote patient monitoring services provided via telemedicine for all pregnant and postpartum patients, instead of just providing coverage for patients with high-risk pregnancies as under current statute, the General Assembly will expand patient access to telehealth services and increase patient choice without additional financial stress. Increasing access to this care will come as a great benefit to patients as “Adoption of telehealth technologies may improve the antenatal care experience for women and reduce healthcare expenditure without adversely impacting health outcomes for the mother or baby.”¹ Furthermore, this bill will allow all pregnant and postpartum patients to access remote blood-pressure monitoring through telemedicine, a technology which has led to earlier diagnosis of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy in the Ochsner Medical Center Kenner’s Connected MOM Program.² Finally, this bill will be especially beneficial for patients in rural or underserved communities who may now opt to receive this important care virtually, without the potential travel costs and inconvenience of an in-person visit.

Thank you for your support of telehealth in Virginia. We urge you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 758 in the interest of expanding easy and efficient access to affordable, high-quality health care across the state. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful in your

¹Atkinson, J., Hastie, R., Walker, S., Lindquist, A., & Tong, S. (2023). Telehealth in antenatal care: recent insights and advances. *BMC medicine*, 21(1), 332. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-023-03042-y>

² Unger, T., & Gillispie-Bell, MD, V. (2024, February 19). Maternal mortality solutions: Remote blood pressure monitoring for pregnant and postpartum patients. *AMA Update*. other, American Medical Association.

ATA ACTION

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efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Virginia. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further 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