



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison
Vice Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR HB 1474

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to you to express our support for House Bill 1474 allowing out-of-state licensed professional counselors to treat college students in Maryland and encourage you to consider small amendments to improve this legislation.

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.

House Bill 1474 allows duly licensed out of state health care professionals to treat patients located in Maryland through telehealth if the patient is a student attending an institution of higher education in Maryland but is otherwise not a resident in the state when not attending the institution of higher education. We agree with and support state policies that provide additional authorizations to allow licensed out-of-state providers to treat in-state patients, particularly for continuity of care purposes where a provider already has a relationship with a patient. We greatly appreciate this commitment to advancing telehealth access, particularly across state boundaries.

This legislation is especially impactful as the transition to higher education can present daunting mental health challenges for students, particularly those leaving their home state. Allowing students to continue seeing the counselor they already have a relationship with via telehealth, without requiring additional steps by the provider, will help ease that transition, promote

ATA ACTION

901 N. Glebe Road, Ste 850 | Arlington, VA 22203
Info@ataaction.org



continuity of care and lead to better patient health outcomes. With that in mind, our organization encourages the Legislature to reconsider the arbitrary and potentially restrictive limitations on the number of times counseling services can be provided to the student. These limits could prevent patients from having as many appointments as are needed to meet the standard of care for their condition.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth policy in Maryland. 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 rectangular background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action