



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Missy Irvin
Chair, Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee – Senate
Arkansas State Legislature
P.O. Box 106,
Mountain View, 72560

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HB 1185

Dear Chair Irvin and members of the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express strong support for HB 1185 which would enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

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. Recognizing that integrating nutrition services into virtual care models can have transformative impacts on health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs, ATA Action launched the Virtual Foodcare Coalition to support the enactment of state and federal telehealth policies that expand access to foodcare.

The Dietician Licensure Compact is an interstate compact designed to facilitate care from Dietitians across state boundaries. By providing for licensure portability through a Compact Privilege granted to qualifying professionals, the Compact allows professionals to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. This Compact also preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

Increasing Dietician's ability to practice across state lines is particularly important to enabling increased access to telehealth care, which will only serve to benefit Arkansas patients. Furthermore, the Compact can also help address provider shortages, particularly within underserved populations, disadvantaged communities, and those who are geographically isolated. ATA Action is pleased to see Arkansas take the first step towards adopting this important compact and expanding access to care and telehealth services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge the committee to advance Hb 1185 to enact the Dietician Licensure Compact. If 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", written over a light gray circular background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action

ATA ACTION

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