



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Rick W. Allen

Chair

House Education and Workforce Committee

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier

Ranking Member

House Education and Workforce Committee

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Washington, DC 20515

**Re: ATA Action Statement for the Record in Response to Upcoming Education and Workforce Subcommittee Hearing**

On behalf of ATA Action, the advocacy arm of the American Telemedicine Association, we thank you for holding this crucial hearing to explore ways to expand access to affordable employer-sponsored healthcare and support a healthy workforce. Telehealth has become an essential tool in our healthcare system, relied upon by providers, patients, and employers for affordable, efficient, and safe care delivery. ATA Action's top priority is to make permanent the telehealth flexibilities implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic including first dollar coverage of telehealth in high-deductible health plans (HDHP) coupled with health savings accounts (HSAs) and telehealth as an excepted benefit. ATA Action applauds Congress for extending the Medicare telehealth flexibilities and the Acute Hospital Care at Home Program but unfortunately, both telehealth flexibilities for employers have expired leaving millions of Americans without access to virtual care services. We urge Congress to reinstate these flexibilities as soon as possible until a permanent pathway forward is implemented.

**First Dollar Coverage of Telehealth in HDHP-HSAs**

In 2020, Congress allowed employers to offer employees enrolled in HDHP-HSAs to receive telehealth services pre-deductible. Over 30 million Americans took advantage of this flexibility as it removes the barriers of high deductibles, increases access to convenient and affordable care, encourages preventative health practices, and makes the healthcare experience smoother and more predictable. However, this waiver expired on December 31, 2024, leaving many individuals without the immediate access to telehealth services that had previously been available to them.

In response, ATA Action has called on Congress to reinstate the first-dollar coverage for telehealth in HDHP-HSAs in any upcoming legislative package. The [Telehealth Expansion Act](#)



[of 2025](#), introduced by Representatives Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Susie Lee (D-NV), seeks to make this flexibility permanent, ensuring that individuals with HDHPs and HSAs can continue to receive pre-deductible telehealth services. The bill has received bipartisan support and represents a crucial step toward maintaining and expanding access to telehealth services for millions of Americans. We understand this legislation is not in the Education and Workforce Committee's jurisdiction but want to relay the importance of this employer flexibility that we hope Congress writ large will support to reinstate. [See here](#) for a stakeholder letter signed by over 300 organizations urging Congress to act on this provision.

### **Telehealth as an Excepted Benefit**

On June 23, 2020, the Labor, HHS and Treasury Departments jointly issued an FAQ pertaining to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and other health coverage issues. Specifically, it stated that the agencies would take a non-enforcement position for employers wishing to provide telehealth or other remote care services to employees ineligible for any other employer-sponsored group health plan for the duration of the PHE. This flexibility was not extended and expired at the end of calendar year 2023. Therefore, ATA Action urges the Committee to prioritize action on this issue and swiftly work alongside the rest of your colleagues to reinstate this policy immediately. Given the tremendous support for telehealth services, reinstating this policy would restore access to convenient and affordable healthcare options for individuals who need them most, while reducing the strain on both the healthcare system and individuals' financial burdens.

Thank you for your work on these important issues. We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure the appropriate telehealth policies are implemented and reinstated that will increase access to affordable and safe healthcare services. ATA Action is here as a resource and would be happy to answer any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley  
Executive Director  
ATA Action