



June 19, 2025

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Heath Flora
Vice Chair, State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
1021 O Street, Suite 4730
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 508

Dear Chair Berman, Vice Chair Flora and members of the Business and Professions Committee:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of Senate Bill 508 relating to cross state licensure for providers treating patients who have been diagnosed with cancer. This legislation will allow licensed, out-of-state providers to deliver telehealth services to cancer patients in California, helping them receive the vital, lifesaving care they need.

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 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.

As patients and consumers seek out more convenient and affordable ways to access health care, telehealth providers have come to rely on a variety of technological modalities to deliver care. **Allowing out-of-state providers that maintain good standing in their own state the opportunity to deliver telehealth services in California under specific criterion will help eligible patients receive the vital, lifesaving care they need.** This important legislation helps to remove arbitrary geographical barriers currently limiting California patients' access to needed services, and ATA Action recommends passing this legislation.

The ability for physicians to reach patients diagnosed with cancer in a convenient and cost-effective manner is important to reducing economic burden and can also critically improve overall care. Patients diagnosed with cancer, especially rare cancers, often face expensive and time-consuming trips to see the specialists they need in other states. Alternatively, the providers they need face the arduous process of obtaining licensure in every state where the patients they treat are based. Rather than requiring specialized cancer providers to clear the administrative burden of obtaining cross-state licensure, **SB 508 would provide patients with cancer in California access to the global wealth of expertise concerning their individual conditions without ever having to travel outside the state.**

ATA ACTION

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Moreover, SB 508 will be especially impactful for cancer patients living in rural areas and underserved communities. **For patients in rural and underserved communities, access to out-of-state telehealth providers will open expanded avenues to care for patients and help address provider shortages in these areas.**

ATA Action believes that patients should be able to receive virtual care from their preferred provider, regardless of that provider's physical location, so long as the practitioners are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care and can still be held accountable by the appropriate Boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment. While this legislation represents a positive step forward for California's telehealth policy, **ATA Action encourages the legislature to consider further policy chances to increase licensure flexibility for out-of-state telehealth providers beyond the specific circumstances included in existing statute and SB 508.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. **We urge you to pass Senate Bill 508 in the interest of expanding California patients' access to high-quality, affordable health care.** Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in California. 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 light gray circular background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action