



October 30, 2025

Alaska State Medical Board
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 12 AAC 40.943(b)
(MED-1124)**

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express support for the Alaska State Medical Board's proposed amendment to 12 AAC 40.943(b), which repeals outdated language regarding the prescribing, dispensing or administering of buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment via telemedicine.

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.

The proposed amendment to 12 AAC 40.943(b) represents a positive and commendable step by the Alaska State Medical Board to modernize and align state regulations with current federal standards for OUD treatment. By removing obsolete language tied to the former Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver program and pandemic-specific telehealth provisions, the Board will ensure that Alaska's rules reflect today's evidence-based clinical and regulatory environment. ATA Action commends the Board for recognizing the importance of regulatory clarity and for supporting the continued use of telemedicine as a vital tool for OUD care across Alaska.

By aligning Alaska's regulations with updated federal law, the State Medical Board will provide greater certainty for practitioners and maintain critical flexibility for patients to access OUD treatment through telehealth. This alignment is particularly important in Alaska, where geography and limited provider availability often make telemedicine the most practical and effective means of receiving care.

ATA ACTION

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ATA Action applauds the Board for its leadership in modernizing Alaska's OUD treatment regulations and for its continued commitment to improving patient access to safe, high-quality care. These updates will help ensure that Alaskans, regardless of where they live, can continue to benefit from telemedicine-supported treatment and recovery services.

Thank you for your support for telemedicine. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telemedicine policy in Alaska. If you have any questions or would like to engage in additional discussion regarding the telemedicine 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 faint, light grey circular watermark.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action