



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
Chair, Senate Health Committee
New York State Legislature
State Street and Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12224

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF S 354

Dear Chair Rivera and members of the Senate Health Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for New York Senate Bill 354, which would expand the reimbursement of health care services delivered by telehealth.

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 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.

We are grateful for Senator Rivera's continued leadership on telehealth access in New York. Senate Bill 354 takes an important step forward by making telehealth reimbursement the default for mental health, developmental disability and addiction services under Articles 16, 31, and 32 of the Mental Hygiene Law, removing the requirement that a commissioner affirmatively deem it appropriate and reducing administrative friction that can delay access to care.

These changes are particularly meaningful for New Yorkers living in underserved and geographically isolated communities who rely on telehealth to access mental health and addiction services. By removing unnecessary administrative barriers, S 354 will help sustain and grow the telehealth infrastructure that so many patients and providers have come to depend on.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 354. We respectfully urge the Committee to advance this bill and support expanded access to telehealth services for all New Yorkers. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA Action's perspective on this critical issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at hyoung@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action

ATA ACTION

601 13th St NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20005
Info@ataaction.org