



March 23, 2026

The Honorable Thaddeus Jones
Chair, House Insurance Committee
Illinois House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol
410 S. Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HB 4986

Dear Chair Jones and members of the House Insurance Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 4986, sponsored by Representative Nabeela Syed.

ATA Action is the affiliated policy and legislative advocacy arm of the American Telemedicine Association. ATA Action is the leading advocacy organization dedicated to advancing policy and accelerating the adoption of technology-enabled healthcare. Working collaboratively with federal and state legislators and policymakers, our organization drives industry momentum by influencing legislative and regulatory developments in telehealth, virtual care, remote patient monitoring, artificial intelligence in health, health data privacy, private sector healthcare investment, and more. We represent a diverse membership – including hospital systems, technology companies, professional associations, direct-to-consumer digital health providers, payers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, digital therapeutics developers, and remote monitoring organizations.

ATA Action understands that HB 4986 removes the January 1, 2028, sunset on coverage parity requirements for telehealth services delivered via interactive telecommunications systems under Section 356z.22(d) of the Illinois Insurance Code. Under current law, insurers are required to reimburse in-network providers for telehealth services in the same manner as equivalent in-person services – but that requirement is scheduled to expire in 2028, except for mental health and substance use disorder services. HB 4986 would make this parity permanent across all covered telehealth services, providing the long-term certainty that patients and providers need.

ATA Action strongly supports coverage parity for telehealth services. Allowing the current parity requirement to sunset in 2028 would put at risk the telehealth infrastructure that providers and patients in Illinois have come to rely on and would disproportionately harm patients in rural and underserved communities who depend on virtual care to access specialists and services that are not available locally.

Telehealth has proven its value as a care delivery modality by improving access, reducing no-show rates and expanding the reach of the health care system to populations that have historically been underserved. Illinois has been a leader in establishing strong telehealth

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Telehealth Policy to Transform Healthcare

coverage standards, and removing this sunset is a logical step to ensuring that leadership is durable.

As far as the rate of reimbursement for telehealth services is concerned, ATA Action maintains that state policymakers should set rational guidelines that are both fair to the provider of such services and reflect the cost savings offered to the health care system by the effective use of telehealth technologies.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to support HB 4986 and consider other actions that will permanently expand access to telehealth care in Illinois. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telehealth industry's perspective further, please contact me at hyoung@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter Young".

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action