



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Patrick McMath
Chair, Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 30

Dear Chair McMath and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 30, which would prohibit state agencies and professional licensing boards from adopting or enforcing any rule or policy that restricts a licensed healthcare provider from using telehealth to evaluate, diagnose, or treat obesity or a related metabolic condition.

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.

Obesity is a chronic, complex disease affecting more than one in three Louisiana adults, and it is a leading driver of serious comorbidities including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and certain cancers.¹ These issues fall disproportionately on rural and low-income populations, precisely the communities for whom telehealth represents an effective pathway to care. Studies consistently demonstrate that virtual care is effective for weight management, behavioral counseling, and metabolic treatment, with outcomes comparable to in-person care.² Telehealth removes the transportation, scheduling, and stigma-related barriers that so often prevent patients with obesity from seeking and sustaining treatment.

SB 30 Strikes the Right Balance

SB 30 takes a carefully scoped approach. It does not alter prescribing authority, override scope of practice, or change the standard of care. It simply ensures that no state agency or licensing board can use rulemaking to block telehealth as a delivery modality for obesity and related metabolic conditions. Providers would still be required to practice within their license and in accordance with the applicable standard of care, the same guardrails that apply to every other condition for which telehealth is permitted.

Importantly, the bill also expressly permits the prescription of FDA-approved or compounded noncontrolled medications via telehealth for these conditions. This is a meaningful and appropriate

¹ Bray GA, Frühbeck G, Ryan DH, Wilding JPH. Management of obesity. *Lancet*. 2016;387(10031):1947-1956.

² Chaudhry S, et al. Telehealth interventions for weight management: A systematic review. *J Telemed Telecare*. 2022;28(3):157-167.



provision. GLP-1 receptor agonists and other FDA-approved obesity pharmacotherapies have transformed what is clinically possible for patients with obesity and metabolic disease. Restricting their prescribing to in-person encounters imposes a significant and unnecessary burden, particularly for patients in rural areas, those with mobility limitations, or those who have accessed care through a telehealth provider as their primary point of contact. Because SB 30 limits this provision to noncontrolled medications, it does not implicate any of the separate concerns around controlled substance prescribing via telehealth.

Louisiana has already made meaningful investments in expanding telehealth access, and SB 30 is a natural and necessary extension of that progress. This bill will ensure that one of the most prevalent and costly chronic conditions in the state is not arbitrarily excluded from telehealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We respectfully urge the Committee to support SB 30 in the interest of expanding access to evidence-based obesity care for Louisiana residents. ATA Action stands ready to assist in advancing common-sense telehealth policy in Louisiana. 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" in a cursive script.

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action