



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 281

Dear Chair Dunbar and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 281, the Rural Health Transformation Act. This legislation takes several meaningful steps to expand access to health care for Alaskans, particularly for those in rural and underserved communities, and ATA Action is pleased to support it.

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.

SB 281 addresses one of the most significant structural barriers to telehealth access: the friction created by state-by-state licensure requirements. By enacting four interstate licensure compacts in a single bill, Alaska would dramatically expand its health care workforce and make it easier for providers licensed elsewhere to serve Alaska patients, including through telehealth. ATA Action strongly supports each of these compacts.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

The IMLC provides a streamlined, expedited pathway for physicians to become licensed in multiple states. For Alaska, joining the Compact means that physicians licensed in other member states can more quickly obtain an Alaska license and begin serving Alaska patients – including via telehealth. Given the state's vast geography and the difficulty of recruiting and retaining physicians in rural areas, the IMLC is a powerful tool for expanding the physician workforce available to Alaskans. The Compact has already been adopted by the majority of states and has facilitated hundreds of thousands of expedited licenses nationally.

PA Licensure Compact

Physician assistants are a critical component of the health care workforce in rural and frontier communities, and the PA Licensure Compact will make it significantly easier for PAs licensed in other

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states to practice in Alaska. Telehealth-delivered PA services will benefit directly from the Compact's streamlined licensure pathway.

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

PSYPACT is of particular importance to ATA Action and to the goal of expanding telehealth access to behavioral health services. The Compact authorizes licensed psychologists to provide telepsychology services across state lines, as well as temporary in-person practice in other Compact states. Alaska faces a well-documented shortage of mental health providers, and rural Alaskans routinely face barriers to accessing psychological services. PSYPACT directly addresses this gap by allowing psychologists licensed in other states to deliver telepsychology services to Alaska patients without the delay and cost of obtaining a separate Alaska license. Joining PSYPACT is one of the most impactful steps Alaska can take to expand access to mental health care via telehealth.

Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA)

REPLICA facilitates the movement of EMS personnel across state lines by enabling mutual recognition of licensure among member states. For Alaska, this means that EMTs and paramedics licensed in other states can more readily provide services in Alaska, including in response to emergencies and in support of rural health care delivery. REPLICA is particularly valuable for a state with Alaska's unique geography, where rapid deployment of EMS personnel from other states may be necessary during disasters or mass casualty events.

Taken together, SB 281 is a comprehensive and well-designed effort to strengthen Alaska's health care workforce and expand access to care for all Alaskans. ATA Action urges the Committee to advance this legislation. 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,

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action