



April 13th, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF H 7278

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for H 7278, which would amend Rhode Island’s Telemedicine Coverage Act to clarify that store-and-forward technology is included within the definition of “telemedicine” for purposes of coverage and reimbursement under Chapter 27-81. This is a straightforward and important update that will expand patient access to care, and we urge the Committee to advance 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.

Store-and-forward technology – the asynchronous transmission of a patient’s medical information, images, and data from an originating site to a specialist or provider at a distant site for review and consultation – is a well-established and clinically validated modality of care delivery. It is particularly valuable in specialties such as dermatology, radiology, pathology, and ophthalmology, where expert review of images or data can take place without the need for a real-time patient encounter. Store-and-forward also enables primary care providers in underserved communities to consult with specialists who may not be geographically accessible, improving the quality and timeliness of diagnosis and treatment for patients who would otherwise face significant delays or barriers.

ATA Action supports technology-neutral telemedicine policies that permit licensed healthcare professionals to determine which modalities – synchronous, asynchronous, or remote monitoring – are appropriate for a given patient and clinical situation. Excluding store-and-forward from the definition of covered telemedicine services creates an arbitrary barrier to a modality that is in many cases more efficient, more cost-effective, and equally appropriate for the standard of care than a live video encounter. H 7278 corrects this gap by ensuring that when a provider determines that store-and-forward delivery is clinically appropriate and consistent with the standard of care, that service is covered on the same basis as other telemedicine services under Rhode Island law.

ATA ACTION

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We commend the sponsors for advancing this legislation and urge the Committee to support it. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action