



March 14, 2025

The Honorable Donna Bailey
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
3 State House Station,
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Lori Gramlich
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
154 Temple Avenue,
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04063

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF LD 742, HP0484

Dear Chair Bailey, Chair Gramlich and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support of LD 742, HP0484 relating to cross-state telehealth care.

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.

As patients and consumers seek out more convenient and affordable ways to access health care, telehealth providers have come to rely on a variety of technological modalities to deliver care. By allowing duly licensed out-of-state providers in good standing to treat Maine patients via telehealth following a referral from a provider licensed in Maine, this legislation helps to remove arbitrary geographical barriers to care and will substantially increase available care options for Maine patients. Moreover, this legislation maintains appropriate controls to ensure patient safety by holding telehealth providers practicing under this regime to the same standards as Maine licensed providers using telehealth.

This legislation will be especially impactful for patients living in rural areas and underserved communities, or those who suffer from rare diseases or require specialty treatment. For patients in rural and underserved communities, referrals to an out-of-state telehealth provider will open expanded avenues to care for patients and help to address provider shortages in these areas. Additionally, patients with rare diseases or specialty conditions often face expensive and time-consuming trips to see the specialists they need in other states. Alternatively, the providers they need face the arduous process of obtaining licensure in every state where the patients they treat are based. This is a particularly difficult administrative lift for providers who may be one of only a few who specializes in a rare disease but has patients based in several different states. Through this legislation these barriers to care will be much easier to overcome as a referral will allow patients to see any licensed provider via telehealth without an expensive trip to another state or an additional licensure process for the treating provider.

ATA ACTION

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge you to pass LD 742, HP0484 in the interest of expanding Maine patients' access to high-quality, affordable health care. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Maine. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telehealth industry's perspective further, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Zebley', is written over a faint, light gray grid background.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action