



January 20, 2023

The Honorable Deb Patterson
Chair, Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room HR B
Salem, Oregon 97301
Sen.DebPatterson@oregonlegislature.gov

The Honorable Cedric Hayden
Vice Chair, Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room HR B
Salem, Oregon 97301
Sen.CedricHayden@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 232

Dear Chair Patterson and Vice Chair Hayden,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing you to express our support for Senate Bill 232 relating to permitting out-of-state physicians and physician assistants to provide care in Oregon.

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 coverage and fair payment 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.

Senate Bill 232 would serve as a rational expansion of Oregon's telehealth policy. The proposed legislation would permit health care providers who are located and licensed in states other than Oregon to deliver health care services by telemedicine so long as a provider-patient relationship has been established. This provider-patient relationship may be established via telehealth technologies.

ATA Action applauds the legislature for seeking to expand access to telehealth by permitting out-of-state providers to deliver virtual care to established patients as provided in the legislation. Our organization believes that patients should be able to receive telehealth services from their preferred providers – regardless of that provider's physical location – so long as the providers are

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licensed and in good standing in their home states, are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care, and can still be held accountable by the appropriate Oregon boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment of Oregon patients. By permitting out-of-state health care providers who maintain good standing in their own states to practice in the state, persons who are travelling or obtaining an education in Oregon will have the opportunity to connect with their own qualified health care providers whenever and wherever their need for care arises. Policies which enable out-of-state providers to practice at the top of their licenses and deliver high-quality health care via telehealth remove arbitrary geographical barriers that limit patients' access to the health care services they want, need, and deserve.

Additionally, ATA Action encourages the legislature to adopt similar measures across the spectrum of health care services. For example, Oregon can improve patient outcomes in mental health care by similarly expanding the ability of out-of-state mental health practitioners to practice and serve their patients who are travelling and receiving an education in Oregon.

ATA Action believes that the time is now to make these out-of-state licensure flexibilities a permanent fixture through state legislation. Senate Bill 232 presents an opportunity to do so. Simply put, this is an opportunity for Oregon to lead the nation and provide solutions for complex problems that are affecting Oregon residents every day.

Thank you for your support for telehealth. We encourage you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 232 in the interest of expanding Oregon patients' access to affordable, high-quality care. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you in your efforts to adopt practical telehealth policy in Oregon. If you have any questions or would like to engage in additional discussion regarding the telehealth industry's perspective, please contact me at kzebley@ataaction.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", is written over a light gray circular watermark.

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director
ATA Action