



January 10, 2024

The Honorable Bob Good
Chair
Subcommittee of Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions
U.S. House Committee on Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member
Subcommittee of Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions
U.S. House Committee on Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Good and Ranking Member DeSaulnier,

On behalf of ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, thank you for your continued support for telehealth and for holding a subcommittee hearing entitled "Lowering Costs and Increasing Access to Health Care with Employer-Driven Innovation". Ensuring that all employees including part-time, contracted workers who otherwise would not be eligible for full health care coverage are able to receive affordable, safe, and effective care is a top priority for ATA Action. We write in support of the bipartisan Telehealth Benefit Expansion for Workers Act of 2023 ([H.R. 824](#)), which would permanently classify telehealth as an excepted benefit.

ATA Action thanks the Education and Workforce committee for its historic work on the legislation and for passing an amended version out of the committee last year. As you know, this flexibility expired at the end of calendar year 2023. Therefore, now in 2024, workers across the country have lost access to this additive telehealth benefit this plan year. We urge the committee to work with leadership to ensure that these workers are no longer left behind and pass a three-year extension of the pandemic nonenforcement discretion policy, until a permanent solution can be agreed upon.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the immense benefits of telehealth and remote care services. Telehealth benefits reduce the need to leave home or work and risk infection at a physician's office, provide a solution for individuals with limited mobility or access to transportation, and has the potential to address provider shortages. Additionally, according to a recent [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) study](#), telehealth increases provider competition in the market resulting in reduced healthcare costs. Overall, workers want these benefits, and employers want to offer these comprehensive telehealth benefits. It is our hope that we can work together in a bipartisan fashion to get a three-year temporary extension included in any moving vehicle.

We appreciate your consideration and work on these important issues. Please reach out to kzebley@ataaction.org if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the future on telehealth issues.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley
Executive Director, ATA Action