



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 7741

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 7741, which would establish clear standards governing the use of telemedicine by advanced practice registered nurses, physicians, and physician assistants licensed in Rhode Island and in other states. This legislation takes meaningful steps to reduce barriers to cross-state telehealth care delivery and to protect providers from unwarranted regulatory sanctions simply because they choose to deliver care through telemedicine. 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.

Protection Against Sanctions for Telemedicine Delivery

H 7741 provides that Rhode Island’s licensing boards may not sanction a provider solely because care was delivered via telemedicine rather than in person, provided the service was medically necessary and clinically appropriate. This protection is essential. Without it, providers face the chilling prospect of disciplinary action simply for choosing a care delivery modality that their clinical judgment determined was appropriate for the patient.

Pathway for Out-of-State Providers to Serve Rhode Island Patients

The bill creates a structured pathway under which out-of-state APRNs, physicians, and physician assistants who are licensed and in good standing in another state or territory, and who carry appropriate professional liability coverage, may deliver telemedicine services to Rhode Island patients without obtaining a Rhode Island license under three circumstances: where there is an established patient-provider relationship and the patient has been seen in person within the prior twenty-four months; where the patient has been referred by an in-state provider who retains responsibility for the patient’s care; or where the purpose is to initiate care for a new patient who will be seen in person within three months.

ATA ACTION

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These pathways are rational. They preserve robust patient protections – Rhode Island’s boards retain full jurisdiction over the standard of care and conduct for any telemedicine service delivered to patients located in the state – while removing the licensure barrier that currently prevents out-of-state specialists and providers from reaching Rhode Island patients who need them. This is particularly important for patients in underserved communities and for specialty care that may not be readily available locally.

ATA Action supports technology-neutral telehealth policies that empower licensed providers to serve patients across geographic boundaries without unnecessary regulatory friction, while maintaining appropriate accountability and patient protections. H 7741 strikes that balance well and we are pleased to support it. We commend the sponsors for advancing this legislation and urge the Committee to report it favorably.

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" in a cursive script.

Hunter Young
Head of State Government Relations
ATA Action