



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members,

On behalf of ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade organization, thank you for your continuous support for telehealth and extending these flexibilities through March 31, 2025. As we quickly approach the expiration deadline, ATA Action strongly urges Congress to include an extension for as long as possible in the upcoming funding package for the following:

- **Medicare telehealth flexibilities**
 - removal of antiquated geographic and originating-site restrictions
 - ensure that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) continue to furnish telehealth services and be reimbursed at a fair rate
 - expand the list of eligible Medicare providers
 - maintain audio-only coverage
 - repeal the telemental health in-person requirement
- **Acute Hospital Care at Home Program**

These provisions cannot be forgotten, or millions of patients will lose access to care once the clock strikes midnight on March 31. The consequences of such a loss will be far-reaching, devastating, and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations across the country.

Additionally, there has already been a gap in care for countless patients across the nation as key provisions have expired over the past few years including:

- **First dollar coverage of High Deductible Health Plan-HSAs:** This critical provision impacted over 32 million Americans, allowing employers to offer telehealth coverage before meeting a deductible. The expiration of this flexibility at the end of 2024 means that millions of individuals will have to pay out-of-pocket for telehealth services, making it unaffordable for many and potentially leading to increased rates of delayed care and health complications.
- **Telehealth as an excepted benefit:** Prior to the expiration of this flexibility at the end of 2023, part-time or contracted employees, who didn't qualify for full healthcare coverage, were able to access telehealth services. The expiration of this policy has created a significant gap in care for many workers, leaving them without access to convenient healthcare and exacerbating the financial strain of seeking in-person care.
- **In-Home cardiopulmonary services:** The flexibility allowing patients to complete cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs remotely was vital for individuals with chronic conditions. The expiration of this provision at the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) in May 2023 has



resulted in the shutdown of many virtual CR programs, leaving hundreds of thousands of patients without access to essential rehabilitation services. These patients now face the difficulty of traveling to in-person sessions, often at a great personal cost, or may forgo treatment altogether, which can lead to worsened health outcomes.

ATA Action asks Congress to reinstate these policies and extend the Medicare telehealth flexibilities as soon as possible. These critical telehealth flexibilities were originally established by President Trump, working on a bipartisan basis with Congress during his first term, ensuring that patients across the country could continue receiving high-quality care when and where they need it most.

These gaps in care have already begun to strain healthcare systems, increase patient anxiety, and lead to worse health outcomes for many. If Congress does not act to extend the Medicare telehealth flexibilities, the consequences will only intensify, leading to an increase in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and overall healthcare costs. Rural and unserved populations will be hit hardest, exacerbating existing health disparities and undermining the progress we have made in expanding access to care through telehealth.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to expanding access to healthcare.

Kind regards,

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

Kyle Zebley
ATA Action
Executive Director