

February 18, 2015

TO: Office of the House Clerk
FR: Edmund Tierney -
Member American Telemedicine Association

RE: SB 467 An Act Concerning The Facilitation of Telemedicine

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide commentary on the proposed bill to address the use and scope of Telemedicine in the state of CT. There was much discussion and education provided to several committees with last year's failed attempt to pass Telemedicine legislation. The goals focused on increasing patient access, reducing costs, improving outcomes and patient satisfaction to mention a few.

I encourage the committee to reach out and learn all of the benefits associated through the appropriate use of this technology.

- 47 state Medicaid programs cover services via telemedicine
- 22 states and Washington, DC have telehealth parity laws which require private insurers to cover services via telemedicine comparably to in-person services
- Federal programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense have decades of experience using telemedicine and impressive health care outcomes and cost-savings
- Connecticut was one of only 3 states given a grade of F last year in their use of Telehealth. In contrast, Connecticut was graded an "F" in the *ATA 50 State Telemedicine Gaps Analysis: Coverage & Reimbursement* due to the many barriers and little opportunity for telemedicine advancement.
- Connecticut's existing medical practice rules provide that consistency. In fact, Connecticut was graded an "A" for having a supportive policy landscape that accommodates telemedicine adoption and usage in the *ATA 50 State Telemedicine Gaps Analysis: Physician Practice Standards & Licensure*. We do not see a need for the Board to change existing policies.

The committee should also consider the benefits provided by Telehealth, as it relates to several other initiatives being pursued in the state, such as the Commission on Aging Workforce plans, the DSS Telehealth Pilot, and State Innovation Model Committee (SIM) to develop an improved Healthcare Delivery Model in Connecticut. Thank You for your time!

Sincerely,

Edmund Tierney
Member- American Telemedicine Association