



State Telehealth Policy Landscape

Sydne Enlund | Senior Policy Specialist, NCSL Health Program



Agenda



What Is
Telehealth?



Federal Telehealth
Actions



State Telehealth
Actions



Engaging State
Legislators



Strengthening the legislative institution

How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures



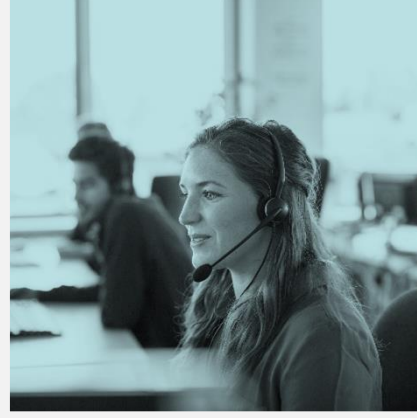
Policy Research

NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis



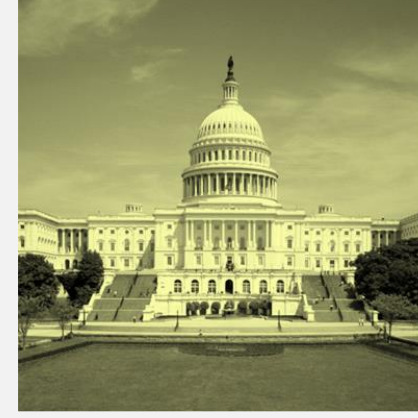
Connections

NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts



Training

NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff



State Voice in D.C.

NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill



Meetings

NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions

Telehealth

The use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to provide care when the patient and provider are not in the same place at the same time. There are three primary modalities:

Live Video

- Allows patients to connect synchronously with providers via video conference.

Store-and-forward

- Transmission of data, images, sound or video from one care site to another for evaluation.

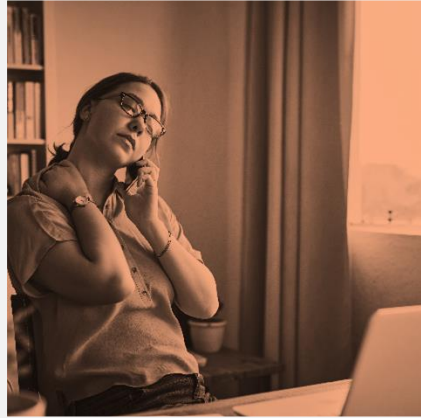
Remote Patient Monitoring

- Collection of a patient's health data while the patient is at home or another site and transferring the data to a remote provider for monitoring and response as needed.

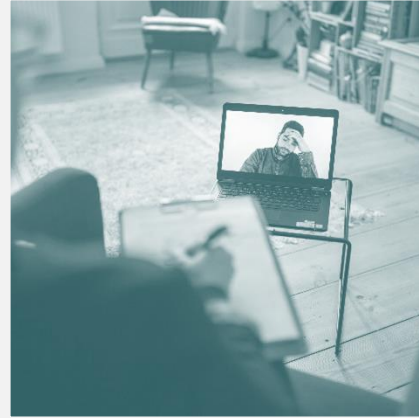
Federal Actions: Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities



Lifting
originating/distant
site restrictions



Expanding
acceptable telehealth
modalities



Authorizing
additional providers
to seek Medicare
reimbursement



Expanding list of
services delivered
through telehealth



Requiring
reimbursement for
telehealth to be
equal to in-person
care

State Telehealth Policy Levers

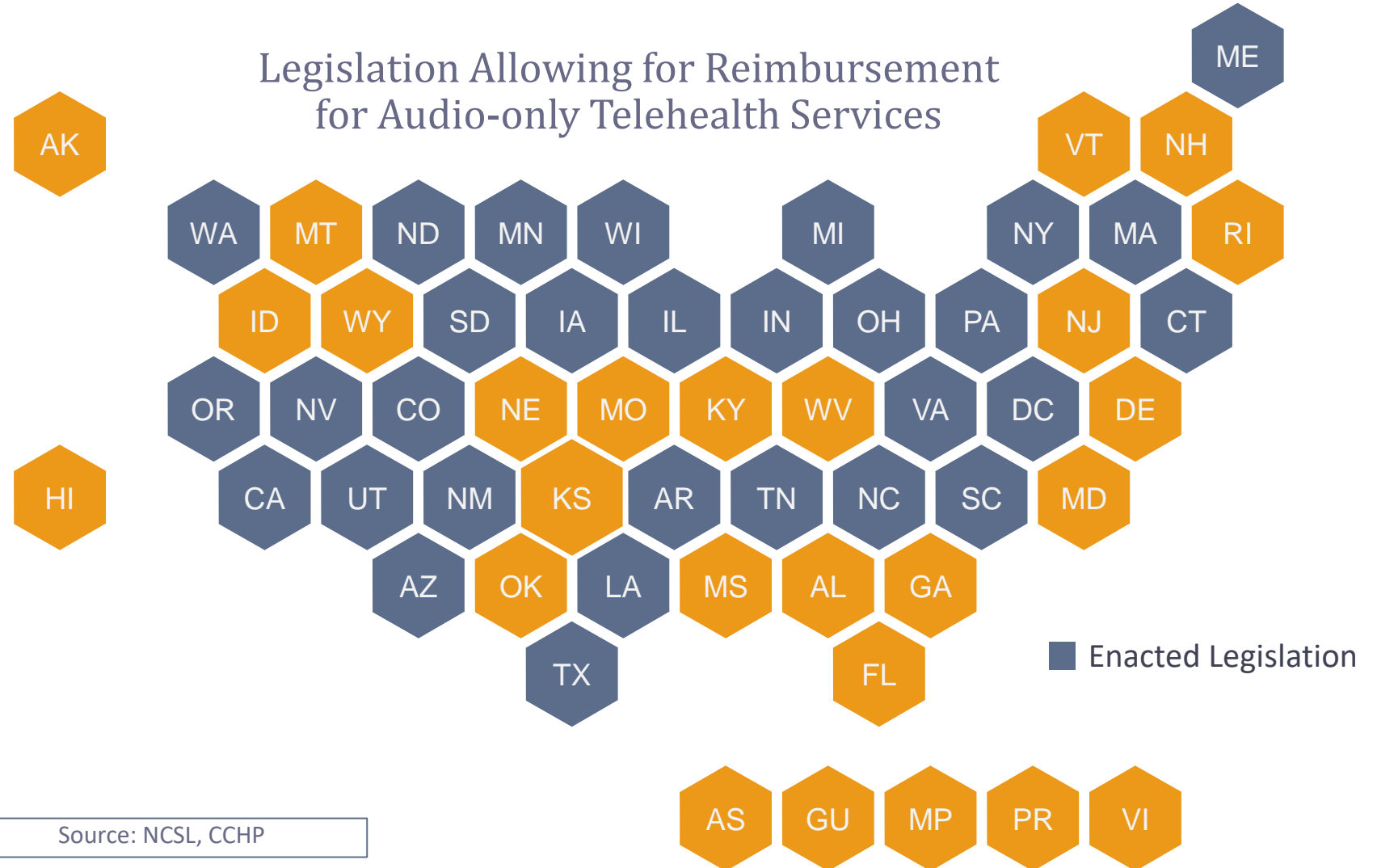


- **Medicaid**
- **Private Insurance**
- **Cross State Licensing**
- **Telehealth Modalities**
- **Authorized Telehealth Providers**
- **Authorized Services for Telehealth**
- **Site Restrictions**
- **Teleprescribing**
- **Patient-Provider Relationship**
- **And more!**

State Actions: Audio-Only

Audio-only reimbursement was rare prior to the pandemic. Twenty-nine states and D.C. now reimburse in some way for audio-only telehealth services through their state Medicaid program.

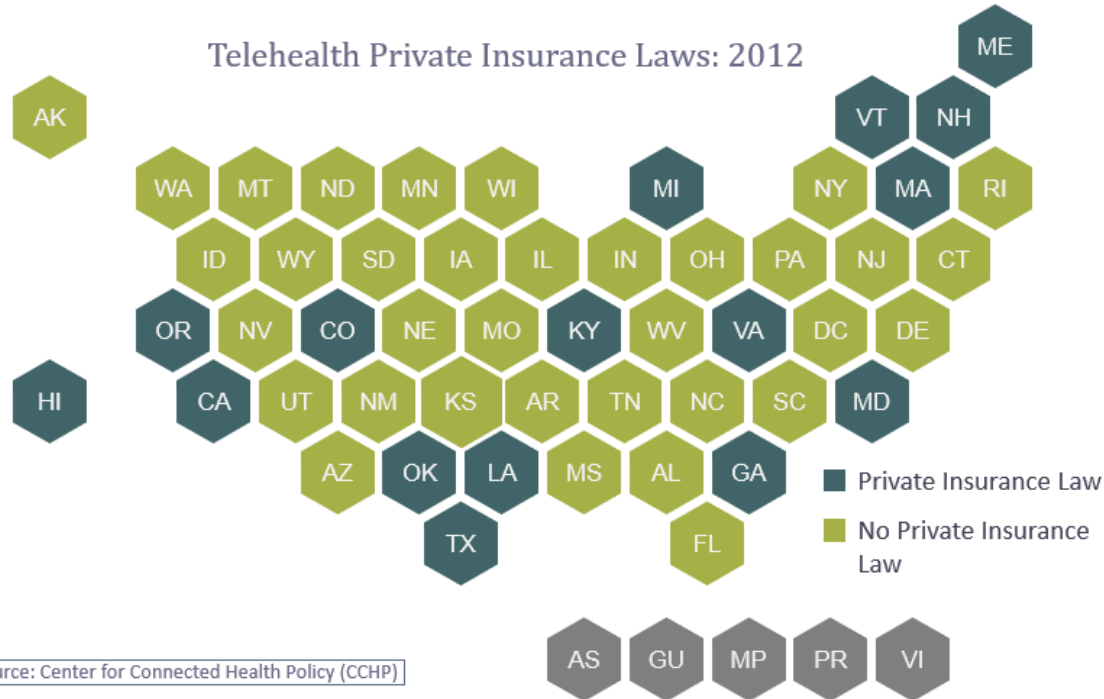
Legislation Allowing for Reimbursement for Audio-only Telehealth Services



Source: NCSL, CCHP

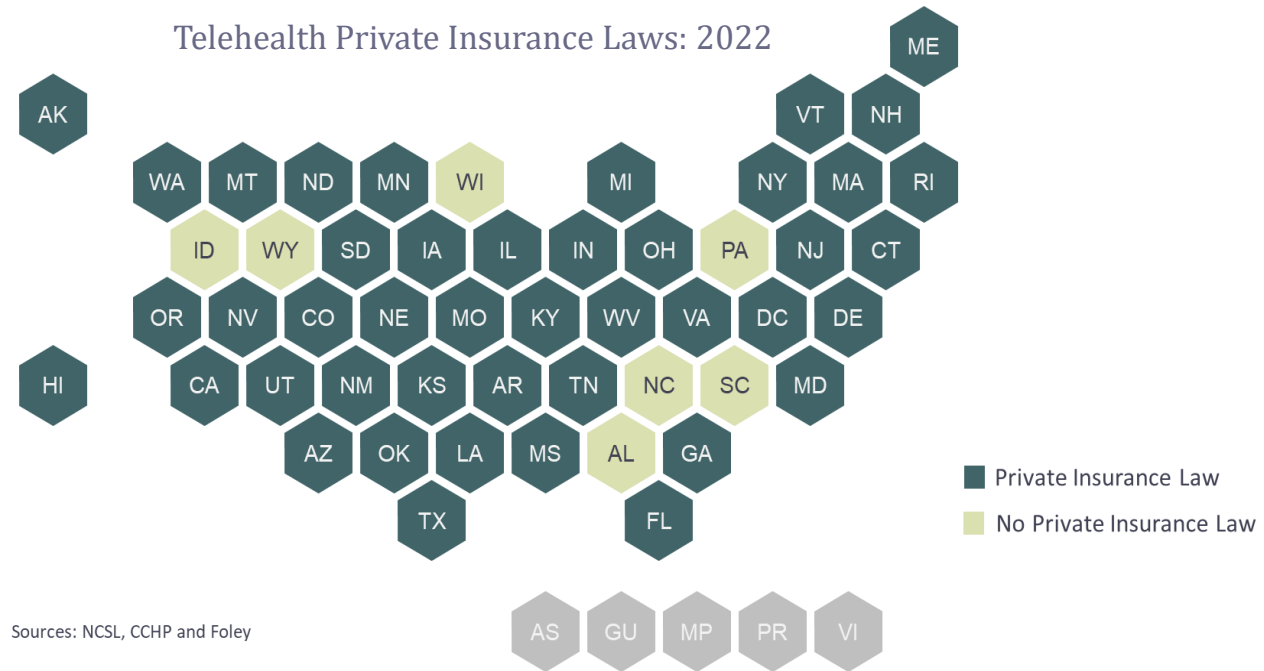
State Actions: Private Insurance

Telehealth Private Insurance Laws: 2012



Source: Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP)

Telehealth Private Insurance Laws: 2022

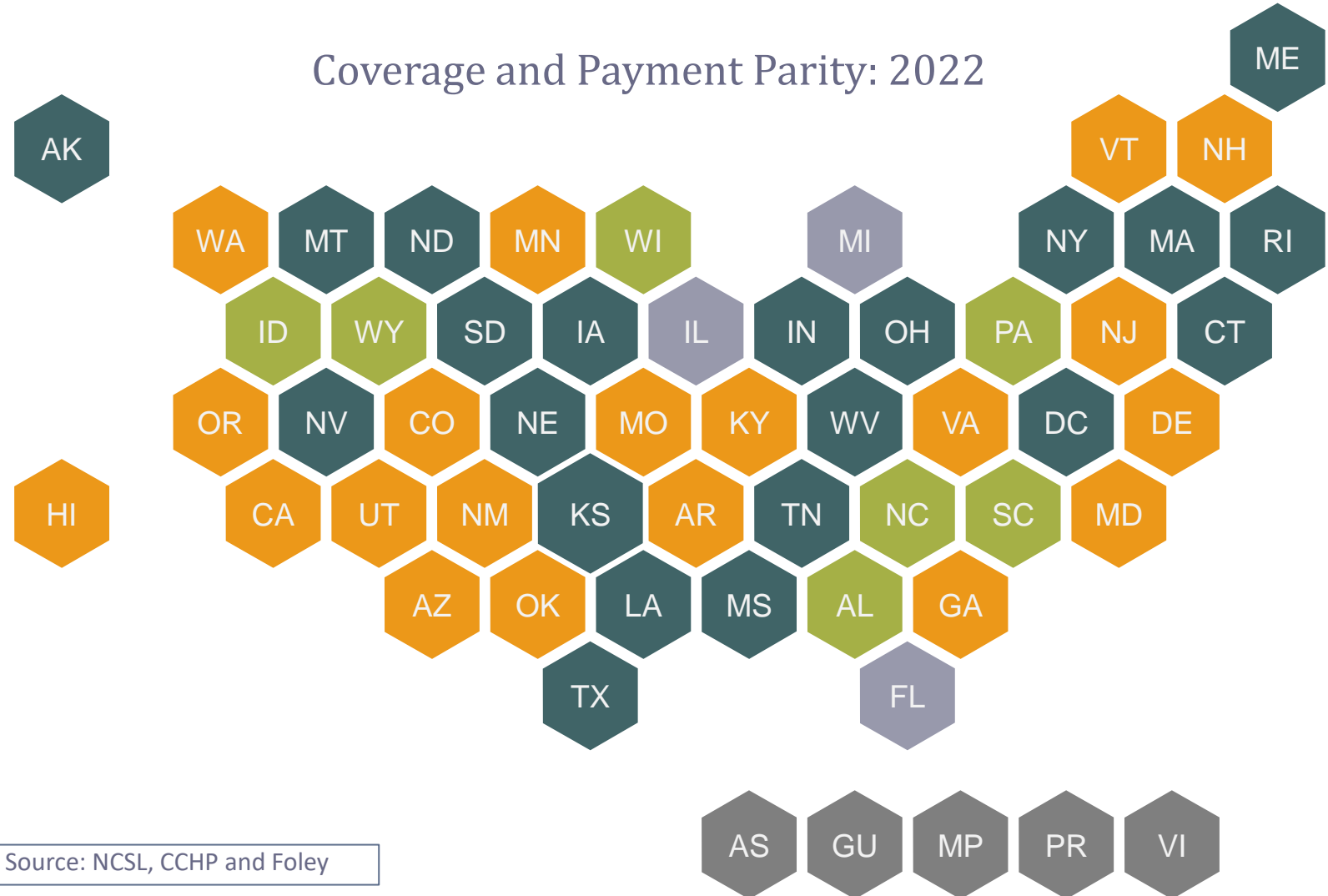


Sources: NCSL, CCHP and Foley

State Actions: Private Insurance

Coverage and Payment Parity: 2022

- Coverage and Payment Parity
- Coverage Parity
- Private Insurance Does Not Require Parity
- No Private Insurance Law



Source: NCSL, CCHP and Foley

State Actions: Medicaid

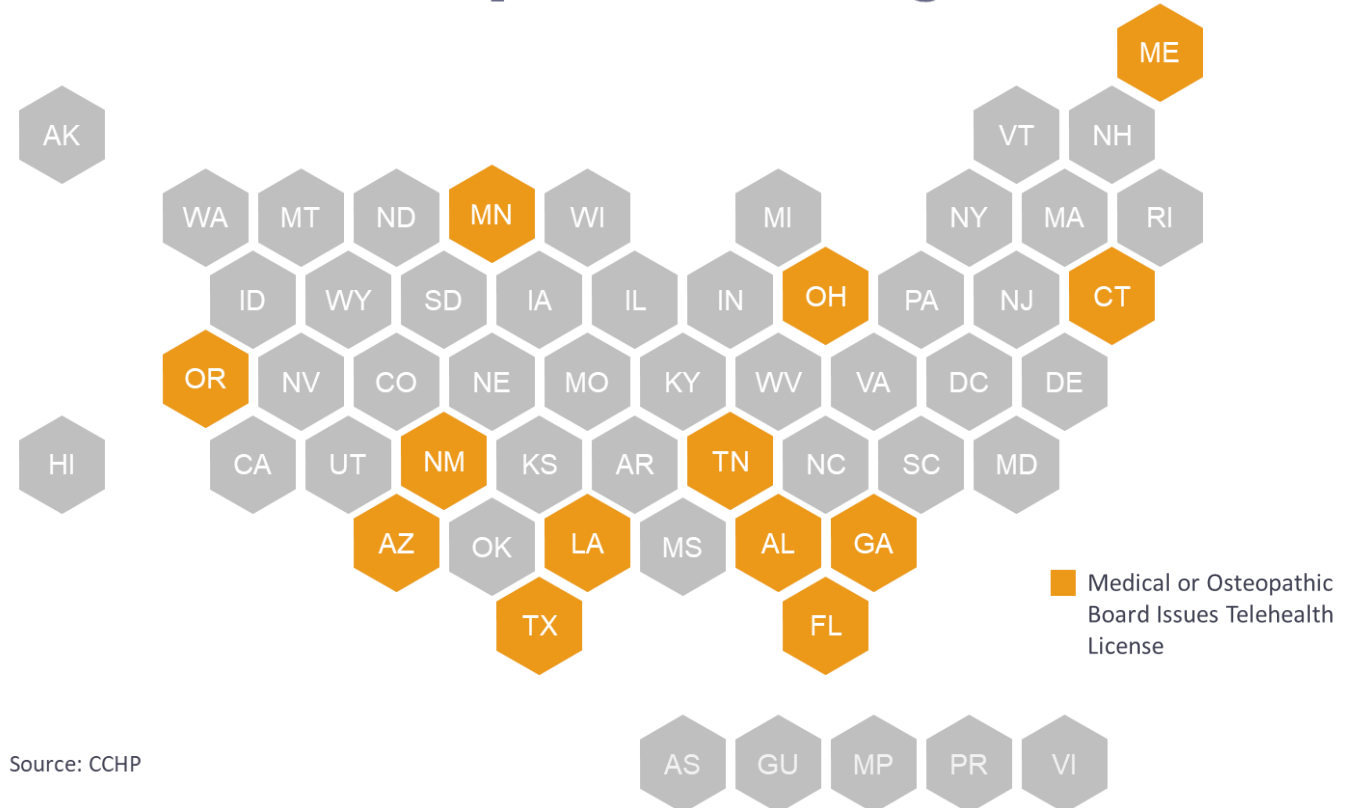
Medicaid Reimbursement for Telehealth		
	2013	2022
Live Video Visits	44	50 + District of Columbia
Store-and-Forward	6	25
Remote Patient Monitoring	6	30

Source: CCHP

State Actions: Cross State Licensing

- Active compacts:
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Physical therapists
 - Psychologists
 - Emergency Medical Services Personnel
 - Audiologists and Speech Pathologists

Telehealth-Specific Licensing



Source: CCHP

State Actions: Cross State Licensing

- Some states—such as **Arizona**, **Florida** and **West Virginia**—allow for interstate licensing for providers other than physicians (including athletic trainers).



Grand Canyon



Everglades



River Gorge



Let's take a step back for
a second!

How should you engage
state legislators on key
priorities?

- Every state legislature is made up of varying number of legislators
- Understand the legislative process
- Know your state legislative calendar
- Information on your state legislature
- Elections



State Legislatures

What You Need to Know

State Legislators

Who They Are

- Citizen vs. “Professional” legislators
- Generalists but usually have a priority issue
 - 150,000 bills introduced each session
 - 30,000 enacted
- Problem solvers/Laboratories of Democracy
- Legislative staff as institutional memory

What They Focus On

- Agriculture
- Labor
- Criminal Justice
- Redistricting
- Education
- Transportation
- Health
- And more.....
- Housing
- Human Services

Three Strategies for Effective Communication

Establish contact and/or a relationship with key legislators

- Identify committees of jurisdiction and committee chairs
- Identify yourself as a resource
- Utilize legislative staff

Raise awareness for your issue through information and resources

- Education is fundamental
- Interaction with legislators
- Let policymakers know what information you have available

Frame your message

- How does the issue affect a legislator's constituents?
- What is the return on investment?
- Is this policy successful in other states?



NCSL Telehealth Resources

- [State Telehealth Policies](#)
- [Bringing the Benefits of Telehealth to Rural and Underserved Patients](#)
- [Health Costs, Coverage and Delivery State Legislation Database](#)
- [State Action on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Database](#)
- [Telehealth Explainer Series: A Toolkit for State Legislators](#)

Sydne Enlund
Senior Policy Specialist, Health Program
sydne.enlund@ncsl.org | 303.856.1401