

SmileDirectClub House Bill 1151 Testimony

Good Afternoon Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Ray Colas, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for SmileDirectClub, here to speak in support of House Bill 1151. HB 1151 simply replicates the statutory standard of care on telemedicine and applies it to the practice of dentistry to ensure the safe and effective deployment of telehealth services, where appropriate.

SmileDirectClub is an oral care company that provides its products and services (including telehealth services) to millions of consumers across the country. Our mission is to improve health equity and to expand consumer choice across all 50 states. At its core, SmileDirectClub provides administrative and technological support assisting state-licensed dentists and orthodontists to focus on the treatment of mild to moderate crowding and spacing of teeth utilizing clear aligner therapy.

More specifically, an intraoral 3D image is taken of a person's teeth utilizing a 3D scanner. Then, several intraoral photographs are taken of the individual's teeth. Both the 3D images and photographs are sent to a North Dakota state licensed dentist along with the individual's medical history, dental history and any other pertinent clinical data to determine if the individual is a viable candidate for clear aligner therapy.

It is important to note that SmileDirectClub does not practice dentistry and simply provides HIPAA compliant non-clinical support to state licensed dentists and orthodontists. It is also our belief that despite the use of our revolutionary telehealth platform, the same standard of care as provided in traditional brick and mortar settings shall also apply when utilizing telehealth services. Our affiliated North Dakota state licensed dentist and orthodontists apply the same standards of care when using our telehealth platform as they do in their brick and mortar practices.

House Bill 1151 requires a North Dakota-licensed dentist to:

- Provide the same standard of care through telehealth as would be done in-person.
- Establish a relationship with a patient prior to diagnosis and treatment.
- Perform an examination equivalent to an in-person examination.
- Adhere to current law as it applies to the practice of dentistry.

Ultimately, HB 1151 ensures that dentists are held to the same standard of care regardless of the method used to provide that care and protects patients while allowing for innovative telehealth technologies to increase access and reduce the cost of care.

With that, I would kindly urge a DO PASS recommendation for House Bill 1151 and would be more than happy to take any questions that you may have.