



State Policy Levers to Improve Access to Care

Jack Pitsor | Policy Associate, NCSL Health Program

Rural Health Policy Roundtable—Southeastern States

April 23, 2022

- Access to Care: State Legislative Overview
- Mixed State Table Discussion
- State Table Discussion
- Large Group Discussion



Agenda

What comes to mind
when you hear “access
to care”?



Shout it out!

Increasing Access to Care



Increasing Access to Care

Access to Hospitals
and Clinics

Broadband Access







Health Care
Delivery

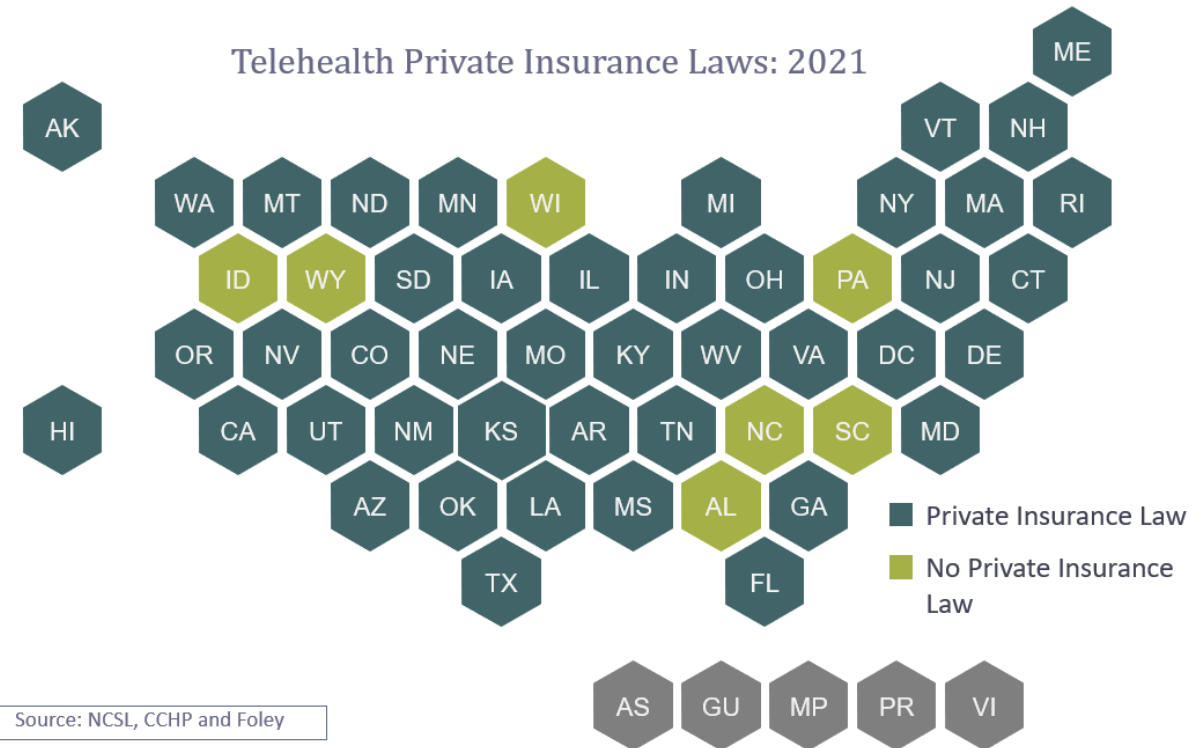
State Telehealth Policy Levers



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

Telehealth Coverage: Medicaid and Private Insurance

Medicaid Reimbursement		# of States
	Live Video	50 + D.C.
	Store-and-Forward	22
	Remote Patient Monitoring	29
	Audio-only	22



Interstate Licensure Compacts



Active Compacts

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Physical Therapists
- Psychologists
- Audiologists and Speech Pathologists
- Emergency Medical Personnel



Not Yet Active

- Occupational Therapists
- Licensed Counselors

Other Cross-State Licensing Strategies



Telehealth License

Georgia [Rule 360-2-.17](#)



Telehealth Registration

Arizona [HB 2454](#) (2021)
Florida [HB 23](#) (2019)
West Virginia [HB 2024](#) (2021)



Neighboring States

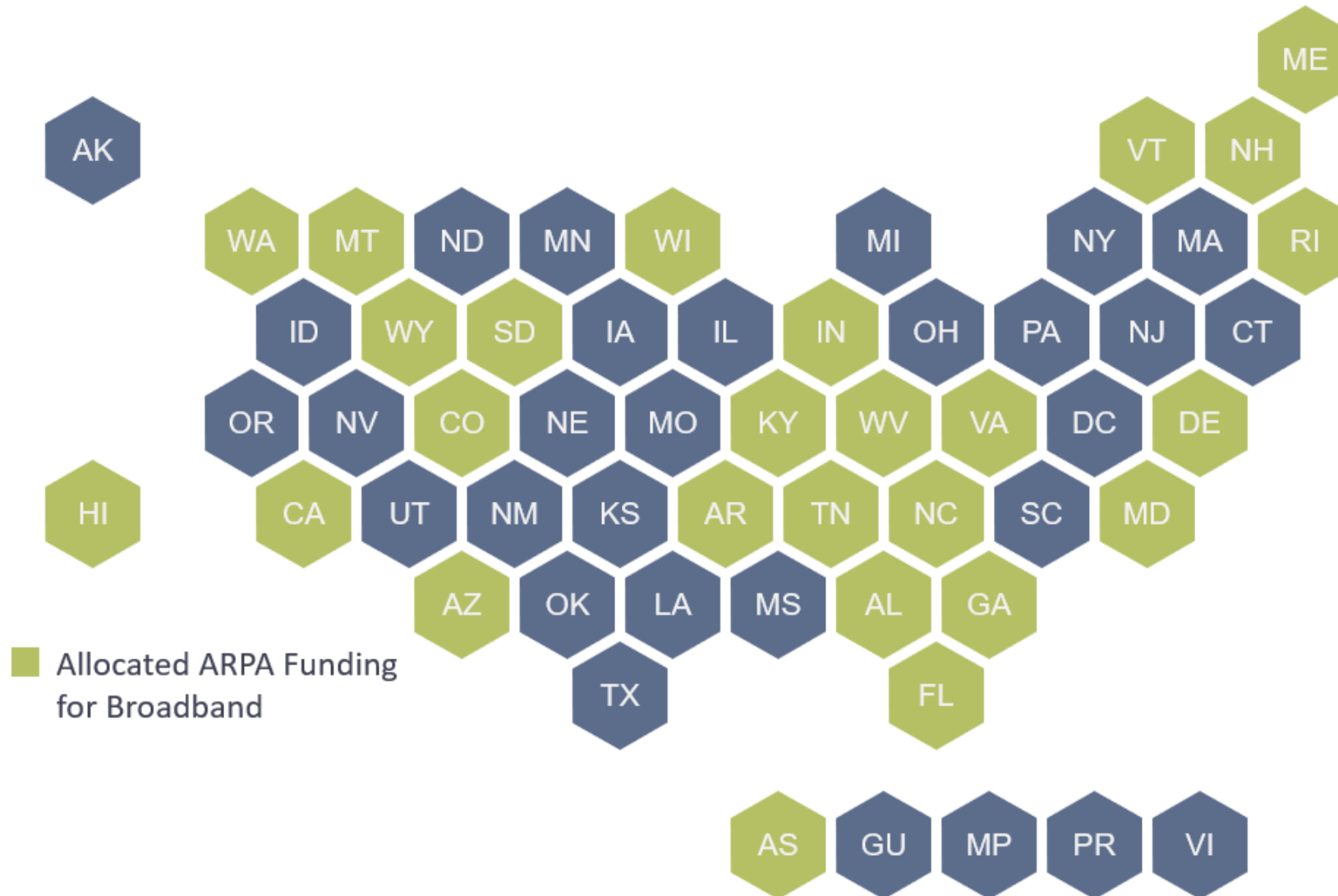
New York [SB 2507](#) (2021)

Broadband Funding—Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Four different broadband-related funding opportunities
- \$42.4 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 - States will focus on unserved areas, underserved areas and then anchor institutions (e.g., health centers).
 - States will receive funds based on how many areas in their state are unserved and underserved.
 - Notice of Funding to be release May 16



States Allocating ARPA Funding for Broadband



Rural Health Facilities State Legislative Strategies

Rural Hospital Payment Reforms

The **Pennsylvania** Rural Health Model establishes a global budgeting model for participating rural hospitals.

Rural Hospital State Grant Programs

Alabama HB 1 (2022) and **Mississippi** HB 365 (2022) allocated state and federal funds to establish rural hospital grant programs.

Other Rural Health Facilities

Illinois HB 102 (2021) required the state to create coordination plans between FQHCs and safety net hospitals.

Illinois, **Kentucky**, **Minnesota**, **Mississippi** and **Ohio** enacted legislation in 2021 authorizing FQHCs, RHCs and other facilities to receive Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth.

Rural Emergency Hospital Designation

Federal Action

- The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 created a new “rural emergency hospital” Medicare provider type.
- REHs will not provide in-patient services, and instead provide 24/7 emergency care.
- Qualifying hospitals are eligible for an increased Medicare reimbursement and an additional facility payment.

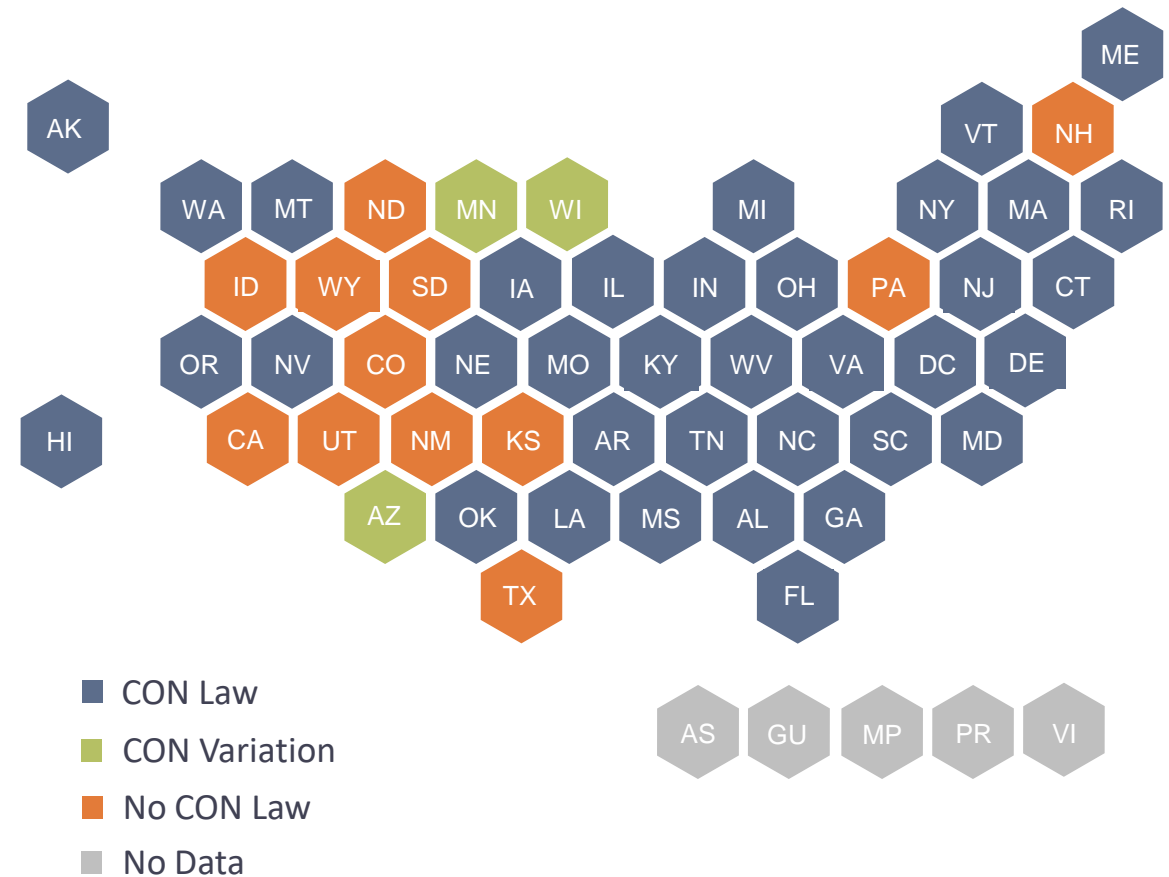
State Action

- Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota established REH licensure requirements in 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions.

Certificate of Need State Laws

CON laws generally require health care facilities to seek state-approval prior to expanding their capacity.

- Major CON Reforms
 - **Montana** [HB 231](#) (2021) limits CON approval to long-term care facilities.
- CON Modifications
 - **Kentucky** [HB 777](#) (2022) exempts ambulance providers from CON approval.
 - **Washington** [SB 6359](#) (2020) exempts rural health clinics in designated home health shortage areas from CON approval.



Burning Questions?



- What are some access to care challenges in your state?
- Using your state profile as a guide, what are some actions your state has taken related to telehealth, broadband and health facilities?
- What challenges or successes did your state face when pursuing a particular policy action?
- What issues related to telehealth, broadband and health facilities do you hope to address in future legislative sessions?



Mixed State Table Discussion— Round Robin Style

- What were 2-3 actions other states pursued that interested you?
- What stakeholders do you need to collaborate with in your state to address issues related telehealth, broadband and rural health facilities?
- What additional information or resources do you need to pursue a particular policy strategy?



State Table Discussion

- What strategies from other states interested you during the mixed state table discussion?
- What are some next steps you identified during the state table discussion?
- What additional information or resources do you need? How can NCSL help?



Large Group Discussion



Jack Pitsor
Policy Associate, Health Program
jack.pitsor@ncsl.org | 303.856.1343

NCSL Resources

- [Bringing the Benefits of Telehealth to Rural and Underserved Patients](#)
- [NTIA Broadband Briefing Webinar](#)
- [Showcasing 'the Power of Rural': National Rural Health Day](#)
- [Telehealth Explainer Series: A Toolkit for State Legislators](#)
- **Forthcoming!** Health Costs, Coverage and Delivery State Legislation