



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association I write to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act of 2021 (S. 2550).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

More than half of ASHA members work in educational settings. The services provided by school-based SLPs and educational audiologists help ensure that all children, particularly children with disabilities, develop effective cognitive-communication skills and achieve successful learning outcomes while receiving a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment.

ASHA strongly supports policies to reduce disparities in education on the basis of race, ethnicity, culture, language, dialect, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, socioeconomic status, and/or ability. The RISE Act will ease the transition from high school to college for students with disabilities by streamlining the process for certifying disability status and help ensure necessary and appropriate accommodations for their success.

Thank you again for your leadership in introducing the RISE Act. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eric Masten, ASHA's director of federal affairs for education, at emasten@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL
2022 ASHA President