



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

December 21, 2022

The Honorable Tracey Mann
United States House of Representatives
522 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mann:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act (H.R. 9306).

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; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders.

ASHA strongly supports the implementation of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), which will allow licensed audiologists and SLPs to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states without having to obtain additional state licenses. The ASLP-IC will, among other things, increase access to care in underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and help facilitate continuity of care when clients, patients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their professional license when relocating.

The ASLP-IC Commission is currently implementing a data system that will begin accepting applications for compact privileges in 2023. The SHARE Act addresses an inconsistent interpretation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about whether interstate licensing statutes comply with federal law and consequently, and whether the FBI can share criminal history background check information with a state licensing authority to facilitate the compact's operation.

Thank you again for your leadership in introducing the SHARE Act. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation through the House of Representatives. 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