



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 288 & SB 183, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Chairman Pinsky:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 288 and SB 183, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 4,050 ASHA members reside in Maryland.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. ASHA is pleased to support this bill, which will:

- increase access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP
2021 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Maryland* [Quick Facts] <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/Maryland-State-Flyer.pdf>.