



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Submitted via email: chad.caldwell@okhouse.gov

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Chad Caldwell
Chair
Health Services and Long-Term Care Committee
Oklahoma State Legislature
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Room 335
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

RE: HB 2968

Dear Representative Caldwell:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 2968, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 204,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 2,350 ASHA members reside in Oklahoma.

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. I am pleased to support HB 2968, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating 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,

Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President