



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Leon Howard
Chairman
Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
South Carolina Legislature
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: HB 3840, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairman Howard:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 3840, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,000 ASHA members reside in South Carolina.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). *South Carolina* [Quick Facts] <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/South-Carolina-State-Flyer.pdf>.