



**ASHA**  
American  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

February 18, 2022

The Honorable Leon Howard  
Chair  
House Committee on Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs  
South Carolina Legislature  
1105 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: HB 3840

Dear Representative Howard and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 3840, 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 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 3840, 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.

Passage of this bill would allow South Carolina to join the 15 other ASLP-IC member states, including neighboring states North Carolina and Georgia, in enjoying these same benefits. The United States Department of Defense and the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting HB 3840.

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](mailto:sadams@asha.org).

Sincerely,

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

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *South Carolina* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/South-Carolina-state-flyer.pdf>.