



Submitted via email: [sherri.kempf@governor.mo.gov](mailto:sherri.kempf@governor.mo.gov)

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Mike Parson  
Governor  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: HB 2149

Dear Governor Parson:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 2149, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

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. Over 4,500 ASHA members reside in Missouri.<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 2149, 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.

Your signature on this bill would allow Missouri to enjoy the same benefits of the 21 other ASLP-IC member states, including your neighboring states of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The United States Department of Defense and the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting HB 2149.

In addition, ASHA supports the bill's reinstatement of the clinical fellowship (CF) requirement for licensure in Missouri. The CF allows new graduates to have a mentored experience during their first year of employment; it is also required for ASHA certification, the recognized national standard for audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Every state—except Missouri and North Dakota—requires completion of a clinical fellowship for licensure. ASHA also supports a provisional license for CFs, which allows them to practice in any setting. Without the clinical fellowship requirement, Missouri would not be able to participate in the ASLP-IC.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position to support HB 2149. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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

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