



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

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Moffie Funk  
825 8th Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601-3716

RE: House Bill 270

Dear Representative Funk:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express our support for HB 270, which would establish licensure for audiology and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs).

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 480 of our members reside in Montana.

ASHA believes that support personnel, including audiology assistants and SLPAs, play a critical role in addressing the needs of those with communication disorders, particularly in areas with shortages of audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Twenty-five states currently regulate audiology assistants and SLPAs in school settings with eight of those requiring licensure. Forty states regulate audiology assistants and SLPAs and 14 of those states require licensure for those working outside of school settings.

ASHA supports the use of audiology assistants and SLPAs who meet the standards specified in ASHA's model licensure bill and who are properly supervised by licensed and ASHA certified speech-language pathologists.<sup>1</sup> Licensing these professions will help ensure that consumers have access to a qualified provider.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 270. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org)

Sincerely,

Shari B. Robertson, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2019 ASHA President

---

<sup>1</sup> The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2014). *Model Bill for State Licensure of Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants*. Retrieved from <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/State-Licensure-Model-Bill.pdf>.