



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

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Travis Weaver  
Illinois General Assembly  
228-N Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: HB 5532

Dear Representative Weaver:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to express support for the House Bill 5532 which provides clarifying language for speech-language pathology assistant supervisors and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs).

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 9,800 ASHA members reside in Illinois.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA supports the language providing a pathway option for a licensed SLPA to complete at least 100 hours of documented field work that has been supervised by a licensed SLP that is comparable to field work completed in an SLPA program in Illinois, and has completed the requirements for national certification as a SLPA. Included in ASHA's SLPA Certification program is a minimum of 100 hours of clinical field work under the supervision of an ASHA-certified SLP who has the equivalent of a minimum of 9 months of full-time clinical experience after acquiring their CCCs. The SLP must also have completed a minimum of 2 hours of professional development/continuing education in clinical instruction/supervision.<sup>2</sup>

ASHA believes that use of appropriately trained and supervised SLPAs can do much to alleviate shortages which can negatively impact the critical needs of those with communication and related disorders who might not otherwise be able to achieve their full academic, social, and emotional potential.

Thank you for considering ASHA's comments on HB 5532. 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,

Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP  
2024 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Illinois* [Quick Facts].  
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/illinois-state-flyer.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. *Become a Certified Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)*.  
<https://www.ashaassistants.org/pathways-speech-language-pathology-assistant/>