



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

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill  
1427 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger  
167 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Sherrill and Harshbarger:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for H.R. 3875, the Expanded Telehealth Access Act.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 individuals who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

It is critical for audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to be able to provide medically necessary services and treatment safely and effectively. The Expanded Telehealth Access Act will provide a permanent solution for ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have continued access to necessary hearing, balance, speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive care provided through telehealth, especially in rural and medically underserved areas. This important legislation would specifically provide both audiologists and SLPs permanent telehealth authority in Medicare.

Audiologists and SLPs played an important role in providing critical care to Medicare beneficiaries through telehealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Data from ASHA's National Outcomes Measurement System has shown that patients receiving services via telehealth improved their conditions at comparable rates to patients who received services in person. Congress acted to extend the authority for audiologists and SLPs to provide telehealth services under Medicare through December 31, 2024, as authorized by Section 4113(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328). However, to meet the long-term needs of Medicare beneficiaries and provide services in an effective and efficient manner, audiologists and SLPs must be given the authority to offer telehealth services on a permanent basis.

ASHA applauds your leadership and appreciates your support for improving patient access to the critical telehealth services provided by audiologists and SLPs. ASHA looks forward to working with you to pass this legislation through the U.S. House of Representatives.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Krantz, ASHA's director of federal affairs for health care, at [jkrantz@asha.org](mailto:jkrantz@asha.org).

Sincerely,

Robert M. Augustine, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2023 ASHA President