



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

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Ariana Kelly  
Maryland General Assembly  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dawn Gile  
Maryland General Assembly  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 401/SB 449

Dear Delegate Kelly and Senator Gile:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write with concerns about HB 401/SB 449, which alters the definition of “practice audiology” and adds additional definitions.

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 4,100 ASHA members reside in Maryland.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA has concerns that “osseo-integrated device” is defined to include cochlear implants, as cochlear implants are not bone-anchored hearing devices. We would recommend the following changes:

“osseo-integrated device” means a surgically implanted bone-anchored ~~bone-anchored~~ conduction hearing device ~~or cochlear implants~~.

“cochlear implant” means an implanted electronic hearing device.

“prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit hearing aids or cochlear implants, or osseo-integrated devices to an individual for the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids, cochlear implants, or osseo-integrated devices are worn.”

Thank you for considering ASHA’s recommendations to HB 401/SB 449. 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,

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

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