



April 19, 2022

The Honorable Sarah Copeland Hanzas
Chair
House Committee on Government Operations
Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: H. 577

Dear Representative Copeland Hanzas and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support H. 577, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

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 550 ASHA members reside in Vermont.¹

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 H. 577, 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.

Passage of this bill would allow Vermont to enjoy the same benefits of the 18 other ASLP-IC member states, including the neighboring state of New Hampshire. The United States Department of Defense and the Vermont Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting H. 577.

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.

Sincerely,

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

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