



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

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October 19, 2020

The Honorable Larry Bagley
Chair
House Health & Welfare Committee
Louisiana Legislature
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Stephen Dwight
Chair
House Governmental Affairs Committee
Louisiana Legislature
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: SB 34, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Representatives Bagley and Dwight:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and as a resident of Louisiana, I write to support SB 34, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,100 ASHA members reside in Louisiana.

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 this bill, 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.

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,


Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President