



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Submitted via email: smedicomm@scsenate.gov

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Danny Verdin
Chair
Medical Affairs Committee
The Senate of South Carolina
Suite 412, Gressettee Office Building
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: S. 1136

Dear Senator Verdin:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support S. 1136, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

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 3,100 ASHA members reside in South Carolina.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 S. 1136, 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 South Carolina to enjoy the same benefits of the 15 other ASLP-IC member states, including neighboring states of North Carolina and Georgia. The United States Department of Defense and the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting S. 1136.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position to support S. 1136. 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

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