



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

November 2, 2020

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
1415 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Hayes:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for the Save Education Jobs Act (H.R. 8691), and to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this important legislation.

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.

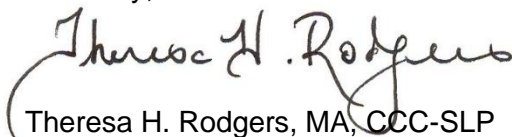
Nearly half of all ASHA members (48%) work in education settings including early childhood programs, elementary, and secondary schools.¹ Audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) provide critical evidence-based services to students with disabilities. These services foster effective communication skills and enhance educational performance.

The \$261 billion Education Jobs Fund (EJF), which would be authorized by the Save Education Jobs Act, establishes a critical funding mechanism to support state and local school districts to prevent educator job losses during the economic uncertainty of the current COVID-19 pandemic. This fund would preserve up to 3.9 million education jobs, including those defined as specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) positions occupied by audiologists and SLPs.

ASHA is pleased that SISP are specifically listed among the professionals who can be retained, recalled/rehired, and hired using EJF funds. ASHA looks forward to working with you as the House considers the Save Education Jobs Act to ensure that all SISP, including audiologists and SLPs, are explicitly included among the educational professionals who are covered in the EJF's other allowable use of funds.

Thank you again for your leadership on the Save Education Jobs Act. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eric Masten, ASHA's director of federal affairs, education, at emasten@asha.org.

Sincerely,



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

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Profile of ASHA members & affiliates, year-end 2019*. <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/2019-Member-Counts.pdf>.