



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

March 6, 2023

Senator Missy Irvin
Chair
Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee
Arkansas State Legislature
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: SB 91

Dear Senator Irvin:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 91, 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 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,000 ASHA members reside in Arkansas.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 SB 91, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and students relocate or travel to another state, specifically members of the military and their spouses.

Passage of this bill would allow Arkansas to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states, including neighboring states of Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. We hope the Committee will pass this important legislation to ensure Arkansas can join the ASLP-IC.

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,

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

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