



June 9, 2026

Speaker Mike Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 8464

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to oppose H.R. 8464, the Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 247,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. SLPs identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders. The services provided by ASHA members are medically necessary, evidence-based, and essential to the health and independence of Medicaid beneficiaries across the lifespan.

We share Congress's commitment to ensuring the integrity of federal programs so taxpayer resources are used for their intended purpose. H.R. 8464 would authorize federal agencies to "delay, condition, or segment" payments to programs serving vulnerable Americans, such as Medicaid, whenever a "fraud risk indicator" is triggered. ASHA believes that this subjective and ambiguous language could create inappropriate barriers that prevent patients from accessing needed services in a timely manner.

For example, the Secretary of Health and Human Services could temporarily block federal Medicaid payments for particular services by citing an "increase in the volume of a payment amount," which is considered a fraud risk indicator under this legislation.

Medicaid is the primary payer for audiology and speech-language pathology services for children with disabilities. Medicaid also covers a significant number of adults recovering from strokes or traumatic brain injuries, as well as older Americans with communication and swallowing disorders. Under H.R. 8464, federal agencies could delay or deny Medicaid payments for these services in any state that has seen increased utilization, even when that growth reflects legitimate changes in clinical need across these populations.

The language could also allow executive branch officials to restrict access to care by withholding legally authorized and appropriated funds, contrary to congressional intent, when processes and procedures already exist to identify, investigate, and recoup federal funds that have been misused.

ASHA therefore urges the House of Representatives to reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda I. Rosa-Lugo".

Linda I. Rosa-Lugo, EdD, CCC-SLP  
2026 ASHA President