



January 29, 2026

The Honorable Rachael Cabral-Guevara, Chair  
The Honorable Patrick Testin, Vice-Chair  
Senate Health Committee  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: ASHA Comments on SB 860/AB 820

Dear Chair Cabral-Guevara, Vice-Chair Testin, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to support the substitute amendment for SB 860/AB 820, which makes important updates to the scope of practice for audiologists in Wisconsin, including provisions related to device management, diagnostic authority, and clinical services that will improve access to skilled audiology care across the state.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Nearly half of ASHA's members are employed in schools. Over 4,000 ASHA members reside in Wisconsin, including more than 300 audiologists.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA's comments below address specific scope of practice updates in amended versions of SB 860/AB 820 that reflect audiology education, training, and clinical practice.

SB 860/AB 820 appropriately recognizes that working with osseointegrated devices, performing cochlear implant fittings, and conducting screenings of mental health and cognitive impairment are firmly established within the practice of audiology. We appreciate that this legislation also recognizes that audiologists possess the education, preparation, and skills to perform cerumen management and the removal of foreign bodies from the ear canal.

ASHA further affirms that provisions of this legislation allowing audiologists to order cultures, bloodwork, and radiologic imaging reflect modern components of audiology practice when used to diagnose, manage, and treat auditory or vestibular conditions. We recognize that the Department of Safety and Professional Services will need to promulgate regulations to implement these provisions of AB 820, as authorized under Wis. Stat. § 227.11. ASHA supports such regulatory oversight and will work collaboratively with audiologists in Wisconsin to ensure the Department provides appropriate guidance regarding the use of cultures, laboratory testing, and imaging within audiology practice.

Thank you for your continued support of audiologists and the audiology profession. We appreciate your consideration of ASHA's perspective on SB 860/AB 820. If you or your staff

have questions, please contact Tim Boyd, ASHA's director of state health care and audiology affairs, at [tboyd@asha.org](mailto:tboyd@asha.org).

Sincerely,



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

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2025). *Wisconsin* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-flyers/wisconsin-state-flyer.pdf>