



April 24, 2023

Ms. Tami Brancamp  
Board Chair  
Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board  
6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1  
Reno, NV 89523

RE: Opposition to Assistant Regulations

Dear Ms. Brancamp:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to oppose the proposed regulations which state that the use of unlicensed assistants is allowed with no requirement for licensure, certification, or registration by the Board and provides an expansive scope of practice.

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. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Over 1,200 ASHA members reside in Nevada.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA believes that appropriately trained audiology assistants, who are licensed and supervised by an ASHA certified and licensed audiologist, can alleviate the burdens on practitioners and help ensure that more clients and patients receive services. However, ASHA believes that the requirements should first be addressed through the legislative process. Licensure of these individuals will ensure that the needed training, supervision, and scope are defined and that consumers are protected by having recourse through the Board if needed. ASHA does not support having a hearing aid specialist as a supervisor of the assistant because they do not have the necessary training and skills sets needed. The Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association also supports these recommendations and will be providing a comment letter to the Board.

As you are aware, ASHA has a certification program for both audiology and speech-language pathology assistants, which offers several education pathways and requires the passage of an exam.<sup>2</sup>

Thank you for considering ASHA's comments on the proposed assistant regulations. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Augustine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Assistants Program. (n.d.). <https://www.ashaassistants.org>.