



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Courtney:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 2663), 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 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 40% of all ASHA members work in health care settings that include hospitals, residential facilities (e.g., skilled nursing facilities), and nonresidential settings including home health care services.¹ Audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) provide medically necessary services to maximize health and functional outcomes and quality of life.

ASHA strongly supports ensuring appropriate and safe working environments for our members, including workspaces that ensure access and high-quality service delivery while upholding privacy standards. The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act will help ensure that the health care settings where audiologists and SLPs work have effective policies, training, and recordkeeping access in place to prevent violence and protect the health and safety of practitioners.

Thank you again for your leadership in introducing the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eric Masten, ASHA's director of federal affairs for education, at emasten@asha.org.

Sincerely,

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

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *2021 Member and affiliate profile*. <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/>.