



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Naquetta Ricks
Chair, House Business Affairs and Labor Committee
General Assembly
State Capitol
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB 1075

Dear Representative Ricks:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to express support for House Bill 1075, which authorizes the director of the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to certify speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) to work outside of school settings.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 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. Over 4,500 ASHA members reside in Colorado.¹

Under existing statutes and regulations, the Colorado Department of Education has authorized SLPAs to practice in school settings, which helps address staff shortages in schools. Adding DORA-certified SLPAs who are appropriately trained and supervised can significantly alleviate provider shortages and help those in Colorado with communication-related disorders. Currently, 38 states provide some form of regulation for assistants working outside of school settings.

Thank you for considering ASHA's support for House Bill 1075. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP
2025 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Colorado* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/colorado-state-flyer.pdf>