



February 10, 2026

The Honorable Jason W. Goetz
Chair, House K-12 Education Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SE 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB 2761

Dear Representative Goetz and Members of the House K-12 Education Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to express support for House Bill 2761, which licenses speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs).

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology assistants and SLPAs; and students. Over 2,200 ASHA members reside in Kansas.¹

ASHA supports provisions of HB 2761, including recognition of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Certification (C-SLPA) as an option for SLPAs who meet Kansas requirements.² We also support the bill's provisions related to education, supervision (including supervisor ratio), reciprocity, clinical hours, continuing education, scope of practice, and telepractice.

In Section 5. (b), we suggest adding the following language to the SLPA scope of practice to further align with ASHA's SLPA scope³:

“Adjust their communication style and expectations to meet the needs of clients, patients, and students from varied cultural groups and to provide services in a culturally responsive manner; provide families and staff with accurate information on how a first language influences the development of communication and related skills in a second language.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for SLPs in Kansas will increase by 18.1% between 2022 and 2032.⁴ Licensing SLPAs who are appropriately trained and supervised can help those in Kansas with communication-related disorders and significantly alleviate provider shortages. Licensure also protects consumers by ensuring providers meet required qualifications. Currently, 39 states provide some form of regulation for assistants/aides working either solely in school settings or both in schools and in other settings.

Thank you for considering ASHA's support for HB 2761. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact ASHA's state affairs team at states@asha.org.

Sincerely,



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

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

² Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *2020 Standards for ASHA Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Certification*. <https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slpa-certification-standards/>

³ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Scope of Practice for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)*. <https://www.asha.org/policy/slpa-scope-of-practice/>

⁴ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2025). *Kansas* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-flyers/kansas-state-flyer.pdf>