



February 9, 2023

The Honorable A. Cory Maloy
350 North State Street
State Capitol, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RE: SB 35

Dear Representative Maloy:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to support SB 35, which eases practice for individuals seeking a license in Utah—via a license by endorsement—who are licensed in another state and have at least one year of practice under that state’s license.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 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. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders. Over 1,700 ASHA members reside in Utah.¹

ASHA further supports the provisions of this bill that requires a determination whether the license issued by the other state, district, or territory encompasses a similar scope of practice as the license sought in Utah.

Audiologists and SLPs working in a variety of settings are often faced with practitioner shortages. We know, for example, that in school settings practitioners regularly face high caseloads and high volumes of paperwork while working with a range of students that may be facing complex communication disorders or may be considered medically fragile.² ASHA believes that the provisions in this bill will help fill the need for additional practitioners and expedite the licensing process, which we know can be lengthy. This will enhance the ability of consumers to obtain much needed speech and hearing services throughout the state.

Thank you for considering ASHA’s support for SB 35. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA’s director, state association relations, at 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

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

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *2022 School Survey: SLP Caseload and Workload Characteristics*. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/surveys/2022-schools-survey-slp-caseload.pdf>.