



Submitted via email: thawkes@le.utah.gov

January 31, 2020

The Honorable Timothy Hawkes
Chair
Rules Committee
Utah State Legislature
350 North State, Suite 350
PO Box 145030
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RE: HB 161

Dear Representative Hawkes:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 161, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 204,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 1,540 ASHA members reside in Utah.

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support HB 161, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa H. Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President