



**ASHA**  
American  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Rachel Prusak  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court Street, NE, H-489  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4101

Dear Representative Prusak:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write in support of HB 4101, which defines and encourages the use of telemedicine and requires reimbursement for services provided via telemedicine.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 2,200 ASHA members reside in Oregon.

As the leading national organization for the certification and advancement of audiologists and speech-language pathologists, ASHA supports the development and use of telemedicine or “telepractice.” ASHA maintains a collection of professional practice documents, including a position statement that defines telemedicine as “the application of telecommunications technology to deliver professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.”<sup>1</sup>

ASHA strongly supports the use of telemedicine. Research demonstrates the equivalence of telemedicine to in-person service delivery for a wide range of diagnostic and treatment procedures for adults and children.<sup>2</sup> Studies have also shown high levels of patient, clinician, and parent satisfaction supporting telemedicine as an effective alternative to the in-person model for delivery of care.<sup>3</sup> Telemedicine expands practitioners’ availability to those in need—regardless of geographic location—saving time and resources for both the provider and the patient.

Despite its proven benefits, telemedicine remains relatively underutilized within audiology and speech-pathology practices due to a lack of clear state laws governing its use or mandating appropriate reimbursement for services delivered. HB 4101 addresses these barriers by defining and encouraging telemedicine use and requiring reimbursement for these health services.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA’s position to support HB 4101. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA’s director of state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org).

Sincerely,

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

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<sup>1</sup> The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Telepractice*. Retrieved from <http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice/>.

<sup>2</sup> Grogan-Johnson, S., Alvares, R., Rowan, L., & Craghead, N. (2010). A pilot study comparing the effectiveness of speech language therapy provided by telemedicine with conventional on-site therapy. *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*, 16, 134–139.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.