



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

May 31, 2018

The Honorable Julie Emerson  
Louisiana House of Representatives  
306 North Church Street  
Carencro, LA 70520

RE: H.B. 748

Dear Representative Emerson:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to propose additional requirements for H.B. 748, which includes a provision that the Office of Governor conduct reviews of 20% of the state's current occupational regulations and within the subsequent five years, review all occupational regulations.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 198,000 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 identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Over 2,900 of our members reside in Louisiana.

ASHA does not believe that a review conducted by the Governor's office is necessary as the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (Board), consisting of members of the professions and consumers, has an important role in regulating the professional conduct and investigating and adjudicating cases of potential harm to the public.

If this legislation moves forward, ASHA strongly recommends adding audiologists and speech-language pathologists to the review panel of occupational regulations, which would include these professions. In the current version of the bill, only the Office of the Governor would be part of this review process. ASHA believes that having representatives of the professions, who currently sit on the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, is critical as they would have the expertise to best assess the ongoing needs of these professions.

Audiologists in Louisiana hold a doctoral degree (or equivalent) in audiology, have completed a supervised clinical practicum, and have passed an exam approved by the Board. Speech-language pathologists hold a master's degree (or equivalent) in speech-language pathology, have completed a supervised clinical practicum, have passed an exam approved by the Board, and have completed at least 36 weeks of full-time supervised postgraduate professional employment or its part-time equivalent.

May 31, 2018

Page 2

ASHA urges you to include these recommended changes for the review panel. Thank you for your consideration. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elise Davis-McFarland".

Elise Davis-McFarland, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2018 ASHA President