



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Richard Hilderbrand
Chairman,
Public Health and Welfare Committee
Kansas Senate
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka KS 66612

RE: SB 77, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 77, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

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 2,150 ASHA members reside in Kansas.¹

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. ASHA is pleased to support this bill, which will:

- increase access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitate 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. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP
2021 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Kansas* [Quick Facts] <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/Kansas-State-Flyer.pdf>.