

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Paul Utke Chair Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee Minnesota State Senate Room 1200 Minnesota Senate Building St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3364

Dear Senator Utke:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SF 3364, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (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. Over 3,700 ASHA members reside in Minnesota.<sup>1</sup>

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 SF 3364, 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.

Passage of this bill would allow Minnesota to enjoy the same benefits of the 15 other ASLP-IC member states. The United States Department of Defense and the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting SF 3364.

ASHA Comments Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position to support SF 3364. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at <a href="mailto:sadams@asha.org">sadams@asha.org</a>.

Sincerely,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

2022 ASHA President

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *Minnesota* [Quick Facts] <a href="https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/minnesota-state-flyer.pdf">https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/minnesota-state-flyer.pdf</a>.