



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Eileen Cody
Chair
Health Care & Wellness Committee
Washington State Legislature
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: HB 1043

Dear Representative Cody and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 1043, 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 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,900 ASHA members reside in Washington.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. I am pleased to support HB 1043, 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.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position concerning HB 1043. 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,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL
2022 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Washington* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/washington-state-flyer.pdf>.