



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

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Joe Neguse  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Neguse:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to thank you for your leadership on reintroducing Ally's Act (H.R. 477).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 individuals 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 (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders.

It is critical that individuals with hearing loss have access to essential hearing health care services and technology, regardless of their age. Being able to effectively communicate is a basic human right, and this proposal will help ensure that individuals born with congenital hearing loss—and those who require implantable hearing devices—have access to needed care and hearing technology by ensuring appropriate coverage by private insurers. The result of this coverage will be life-altering for those with profound hearing loss, especially children. ASHA appreciates your collaboration on this legislation and looks forward to working with you and your staff to pass H.R. 477 through the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you again for your leadership on Ally's Act and for your continued efforts to increase access to hearing health care. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Jerry White, ASHA's director of federal affairs for health care, at [jwhite@asha.org](mailto:jwhite@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2021 ASHA President