



December 11, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider and McKinley:

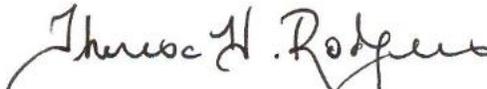
On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to thank you for your leadership by introducing H.R. 8840, the Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act.

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 and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

It is critical to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to essential health care services provided by audiologists and SLPs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Medicare sequestration cuts along with unrelated reductions in reimbursement finalized in the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, both of which are scheduled to start next year, will significantly worsen the impact of the pandemic on health care providers and further reduce access to audiology, speech-language pathology, and other critical health care services provided by a broad range of physician and nonphysician health care professionals. The Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act will help ensure continued access to these important health care services, especially for individuals in rural and underserved areas, by preventing the additional financial damage that would be caused by the return of the Medicare sequester at this time. ASHA looks forward to working with you to help pass the bill through the House of Representatives.

Thank you again for your leadership on H.R. 8840. 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,



Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP  
2020 ASHA President