

833 Glen Allen Drive
Baltimore, MD 21229
February 10, 2020

Dear Senator Kagan,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I realize that this is a busy time of year for you. I am writing to ask for your consideration and support for HB 1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). As a constituent, a speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I believe that this bill is very important in increasing access to essential services for underserved or isolated regions.

Passage of the ASLP-IC would allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would open the door for professionals to provide services through telepractice, and to facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. This bill would also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

Additionally, the ASLP-IC would improve consumer protection by ensuring the ethical and legal provision of services and reducing regulatory barriers. It would promote cooperation among ASLP-IC member states and help ensure that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice.

Based on this information, I hope I can count on your support for HB 1112/SB 416. Again, thank you for taking the time to consider this information. If you have any questions, please contact me or Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative & regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org, or visit <https://aslpcompact.com/>.

Sincerely,

Diana F. Bennett, M.S., CCC-SLP