



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on House Bill HB:1112

Bill Title: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Hearing Date: March 10, 2020

Chair: Shane Pendergrass, Health and Government Operations

I write to you today in **support** of **House Bill HB: 1112**. The purpose of the bill would be for the state of Maryland to enter into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. The state is required to meet certain requirements in order to participate in the Compact. In addition, entrance into the compact would require that audiologists and speech pathologists meet certain conditions in order to be able to practice in the state of Maryland or any other state within the Compact. The bill would also authorize audiologists and speech pathologists to practice via telehealth in states that are also included within the Compact. The Compact is not to be enforced until at least 10 states have entered.

This bill is important because it would ensure protection of the public and provide more access to desperately needed care relating to audiology and speech language pathology by providing coverage to currently underserved areas. This bill makes it so that audiologists and speech pathologists can provide continuous care to their patients even if they're patients move or travel across state lines. The bill would create some consistency across state lines in terms of the licensing requirements for audiologists and speech pathologists.

In order to aid those within our state who need care relating to audiology and speech language pathology, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of **House Bill: 1112**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Charles".

Nick Charles
Maryland State Delegate - District 25