



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

SB416 - Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association – Support

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 416

Dear Senator Pinsky:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 416, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. I also want to extend my thanks to Committee members, Senator Jason Gallion and Senator Clarence Lam for sponsoring this important legislation.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 204,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,940 ASHA members reside in Maryland.

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 SB 416, 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.

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,

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