



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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**Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists**  
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**2020 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO: SB 416**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**POSITION: Support**

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**TITLE:** Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill enters the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology into an Interstate Compact. Participation in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) improves public access to Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services, by providing for mutual recognition of other member state licenses. In doing so, the bill helps to regulate multistate Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services, enhancing the ability of states to protect the public's health and safety. Additionally, the bill supports telehealth technology and lessens the burden on relocating active duty military personnel and/or their spouses, further facilitating increased public access to Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board supports SB 416. The bill addresses the critical need for providers to be able to provide telehealth services to those outside of provider's home state. Currently, the time and financial investment required for obtaining licenses in other states delays the public from receiving such services. Additionally, citizens residing in rural areas, in which access to clinics to receive such services is extremely limited, will benefit from greater access to immediate care, facilitated by the ASLP-IC. The bill also addresses the need to support relocating active military and/or their spouses, by providing licensure to practice and allowing providers to quickly be able to serve the public, without the delays and financial burdens of obtaining licensure.

Finally, The Board notes that for licensees who do not reside in Maryland, moving to the ASLP-IC will decrease the Board's revenue due to these licensees no longer needing to pay the State's licensing fee to practice in Maryland. Licensees who declare Maryland as their home state who choose to participate in the ASLP-IC will incur an additional compact privilege fee, which will

help to reduce the fiscal impact of losing current Maryland licensees whose home state is outside of Maryland.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 416. If more information is needed, please contact Candace G. Robinson, Au.D., Executive Director, Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists at 410-764-4723 or [candace.robinson@maryland.gov](mailto:candace.robinson@maryland.gov).

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*