

ASHA_MeredithAdams_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Adams, Meredith

Position: FAV

Meredith Adams M.S. CCC-SLP
8 Timbershed Court
Freeland, MD 21053
madams4@bcps.org

Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for HB 1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

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

I hope I can count on your support for HB 1112/SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention.

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/>.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Adams', with a small dot above the 'M'.

Meredith Adams M.S. CCC-SLP

MSHA_KimberlyBell_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Bell, Kimberly

Position: FAV



February 10, 2020

Delegate Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1112: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairperson Pendergrass,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association to request your favorable report for HB 1112: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. The Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) is a professional association comprised of over speech/language pathologists and audiologists working in various settings across Maryland. MSHA advocates for people of all ages who have speech, language, swallowing and/or hearing disabilities.

AT this time, when a licensed professional leaves one state to work in another, they must undergo the licensing process in their new state. This results in a lag in starting a job, increased expense for the practitioner and delays in receiving services for patients. Passage of HB 1112 would:

- increase public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
- Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate audiology and speech-language pathology practice;
- Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;
- Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information between member states;
- Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a Compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and
- Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to audiology and speech language pathology services.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of individuals with communication, hearing and swallowing disorders and the therapist who serve them. I hope that you will give HB 1112 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Bell
President, Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association

P.O. Box 31, Manchester, MD 21102
phone 410.239.7770 fax 410.239.7774

www.mdslnha.org

ASHA_DianaBennett_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Bennett, Diana

Position: FAV

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

CommunicationApptitude_AshleyClayman_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Clayman, Ashley

Position: FAV



Angela Mezzomo <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Compact SB 416

1 message

Ashley Clayman <ashley@commappitude.com>
To: pubpolspeech@gmail.com

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 9:15 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ashley Clayman, M.S. CCC-SLP. I work at as an SLP in Howard County, MD and Towson, MD. I am writing in support of the Interstate Compact SB 416. This legislation is integral to me being able to provide the best quality of care for my patients. It allows for me to be able to see my students when they travel and be able to provide telehealth services to them when they are with different family members over the summer (e.g. divorced parents in different locations). This continuity of care will encourage more and faster progress in my children and allow for me then to serve other students that might be waitlisted at this time.

In addition, as a therapist, I also have a specialization in working with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. This legislation would allow for me to provide this specialized support to communities that do not have the education and specialists needed in their areas through telehealth. My own hometown in New York state is a rural area, 2 hours from a school for the deaf and does not have the resources to best support these children.

Please consider the importance of this legislation and allow it to pass.

Thank you for your time,

**Ashley Clayman, M.S. CCC-SLP**
Clinical Director, Communication Apptitude

(410) 305-9072 | (410) 630-6813

www.communicationapptitude.com[5401 Twin Knolls Road, Suite 7, Columbia, MD 21045](#)

VicGladstone_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Gladstone, Vic S.

Position: FAV

Dr. Vic S. Gladstone
8625 Sassafras Court
Columbia, MD 21046

9 February 2020

Chairperson Senator Cheryl C. Kagan,

I am writing in support of The Interstate Compact Bill, HB 1112/SB 416. As you know, health-care costs continue to rise particularly for those with limited direct access to health-care providers. One avenue to provide access is via telehealth which, in recent years, has been shown to be a cost-effective way for those with limited access to receive quality health care.

As you know, HB1112/SB 416 improves continuity of care, improves portability for military spouses, improves access to licensed audiology and speech-language pathology providers, increases choice of licensed audiology and speech-language pathology providers, facilitates alternate delivery methods (Telehealth), addresses portability & barriers to access, and assures that the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology occurs in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter.

I urge you to support HB1112/SB 416 and to keep these important and cost-saving benefits to quality patient care and access in mind as HB1112/SB 416 continues to move forward in the Senate and later when it comes to the General Assembly for final approval.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic S. Gladstone". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vic S. Gladstone, PhD CCC-A

Cc: Senator Guy Guzzone
Delegate Jen Terrasa
Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary

KarenHojnacki_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Hojnacki, Karen

Position: FAV



February 7, 2020

Dear Chairperson Cheryl Kagan ,

I'm a speech-language pathologist writing in support of the Audiology and Speech-language pathology Interstate Compact Bill HB1112/SB416. The bill ensures continuity of care for our clients as well as consistency in the use of providers. Other benefits from this bill is the ability for our clients to use options such as tele-therapy and our providers who are part of military families to be able to continue to work in their chosen profession without undue hindrances.

Please consider supporting HB1112/SB416 Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Interstate Compact Bill.

Warm regards,

Karen D. Hojnacki, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-language Pathologist



ASHA_LindsayKnobelauch_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Knobelauch, C. Lindsay

Position: FAV

C. Lindsay Knobelauch
725 Uniontown Rd., Westminster, MD 21158
(703)732-0469 * lindsayslp@gmail.com

Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I ask for your support for SB 416, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also allow military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

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

As someone who has moved frequently and held licenses in multiple states, having the ASLP-IC would have reduced time out of work and improved consumer access to a certified speech-language pathologist.

I hope I can count on your support for SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions, please contact me or Susan Adams, ASHA's Director of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at sadams@asha.org, or visit <https://aslpcompact.com/>.

Most Sincerely,

C. Lindsay Knobelauch, M.Ed., CCC-SLP
ASHA Certified Speech-Language Pathologist
Licensed in: MD, DE, PA
Inactive licenses: DC, VA, TN, MS

InferCabulary_BethLawrence_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Lawrence, Beth

Position: FAV



Angela Mezzomo <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Support for Interstate Compact Bill, SB 416

1 message

Beth Lawrence <beth@infercabulary.com>
To: pubpolspeech@gmail.com

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 7:44 AM

Hello,

I am in support of the Interstate Compact Bill, SB 416. With the increase in family relocations, it is essential that the speech-language pathologist relationship remain constant for our clients. This will be much easier to maintain with the new bill. Additionally, many of my clients travel during the year, and teletherapy will enable them to maintain progress toward their goals. Currently, I am not able to provide services to students because of the policy about needing to be licensed where the client is. We are so grateful (especially to Jim Rosapepe, whom I know) this bill is finally being presented.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sawyer Lawrence, MA, CCC-SLP

**Beth Lawrence, M.A., CCC-SLP**CEO, Co-Founder / **InferCabulary by Communication Apptitude****M:** (410) 375-5374 **F:** (410) 630-6813**E:** beth@infercabulary.com **W:** Infercabulary.com

CommunitySpeechTherapyInc_KimLoptka_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Lopatka, Kim

Position: FAV

Community Speech Therapy, Inc.
176 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 203
Frederick, MD 21702
301-606-8278
communityspeechtherapy@comcast.net

Dear Senators Cardin and Van Hollen,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for HB1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders in children and adults. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase the necessary access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

In my practice, I have some clients with speech disorders that require multiple days of service each week. Teletherapy allows me to see them without them having to drive to the office more than once a week. However, living and working in the Frederick area, I get calls from clients in Virginia and West Virginia who cannot find local services. I am unable to treat these clients due to the lack of licensure in those states.

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

I hope I can count on your support for HB1112/SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. 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,

Kim Lopatka, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
MD License # 01932

RickMasters_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Masters, Rick

Position: FAV

SB416 - Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact - Rick Masters, JD – 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:

My name is Rick Masters and I am the Special Counsel to the National Center for Interstate Compacts for the Council of State Governments and a co-author of the largest compilation of legal authorities on the subject of interstate compacts published by the American Bar Association in 2016 entitled “The Evolving Law and Use of Interstate Compacts.” I am submitting this written testimony in support SB 416.

I also served as one of the primary drafters of the model compact legislation on which the proposed statute is based as well as all of the other existing interstate health occupational licensure compact including the Medical Licensure Compact, the Nurse Licensure Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, all of which have been enacted by the Maryland Legislature.

This compact was developed under the auspices of CSG, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the National Council of State Boards of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology all of which organizations worked with its members and special experts to study the feasibility of an interstate compact model to support speech-language pathology and audiology license portability nationwide, while simultaneously ensuring state regulatory authority in the protection of the public. Among the issues driving the need for the Compact are speech-language pathologist and audiologist shortages, the influx of millions of new patients into the health care system as a result of the Affordable Care Act, and the growing need to increase access to health care for individuals in underserved or rural areas through the use of telehealth practice as permitted by state or territorial law.

The legislation before you today, like the other health occupational licensure compacts which Maryland has enacted, is an alternative pathway for licensure that will expand access to care, streamline the licensing process for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and facilitate multi-state practice and telehealth practice for those speech-language pathologists and

audiologists and states that voluntarily choose to participate, benefiting both practitioners and patients in the State of Maryland.

As mentioned, the Compact was drafted by representatives of speech-language pathology and audiology board representatives themselves, with the assistance of CSG, ASHA and NCSB. Throughout the two-year drafting process, input and feedback was received and incorporated from a multitude of stakeholders, including state licensure boards, patient advocacy organizations, hospitals and health systems, and the telehealth industry.

In addition to ASHA and NCSB the Compact is supported nationally by the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, the American Academy of Audiology and numerous other national organizations. Locally the Compact's supporters include the Maryland Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists, the Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association and Towson University, among others.

Among the clarifications about the Compact to ensure that the Committee has a thorough understanding of what the Compact is, and what it is not, I submit the following for consideration:

1. The Compact does not supersede the State's autonomy and control over the practice of Speech Language Pathology & Audiology. On the contrary, it is the ultimate expression of state or territorial authority. States will maintain control through a coordinated legislative and administrative process. The Compact thwarts the ongoing efforts of several federal policymakers and powerful interest groups that seek to nationalize the health care licensure system. In the Compact, the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology is defined as where the patient is located, not where the speech-language pathologist or audiologist is located. As such, all initial disciplinary actions will be handled by the Board of the state or territory where the patient is located, just as it is conducted today.
2. While there has been an erroneous contention that the ASLP-IC is more powerful than its sister compacts, this statement represents a fundamental misunderstanding of compact law as well as the provisions of this legislation. The ASLP-IC has similar provisions and language included in each of the existing occupational licensure compacts. It does not expand scope, it does not place a burden or obligation on school districts, and it is no more nor less powerful than the existing three occupational licensure compacts to which Maryland is a member, including the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, Nurse Licensure Compact and Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.
3. The Compact is entirely voluntary for speech-language pathologists and audiologist to utilize. The Compact's language does not change the existing scope of practice for a licensee under a state or territory's existing Practice Act, nor does it change the basic requirements for state speech-language pathology or audiology licensure of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist seeking only one license within a state or territory, or who chooses to become licensed in additional states through existing processes.
4. In order to obtain a license through the Compact, a speech-language pathologist and audiologist must meet the eligibility requirements, including an FBI finger-print based

criminal background check and having no disciplinary actions. It has been falsely alleged by some of the opponents that unlike the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, that licensure is established through the compact rather than through a home state license. The compact explicitly provides, **“The privilege to practice is derived from the home state license.” (See Section G.)** Although the compact affects two professions, these professions are regulated by the same licensing board in almost all states. In addition to basic requirements for accessing the compact, a speech-language pathologist and audiologist must hold a license in good standing in their state of residence. The differences between states’ entry into practice requirements are minimal due to program accreditation and standardized testing requirements. Compact member states retain their unique scope of practice and the competency requirements that dictate whether the practitioner may engage in that unique scope of practice. If practitioners are granted a compact privilege to practice in a compact member state, they must abide by that state’s scope of practice competency requirements and may be disciplined for failing to meet those requirements. The compact does not infringe upon a state’s ability to mandate continuing education for the maintenance of a practitioner’s home state license. It is simply a tool to provide relief to speech-language pathologists and audiologists from burdensome, redundant requirements for interstate practice. Once issued a license by a Compact Member State, the speech-language pathologist or audiologist must comply with existing state rules, regulations, and standards.

5. The Compact creates a Compact Commission that is comprised of two representatives from each member state or territory. This Commission serves as an administrative clearinghouse of licensing and disciplinary information among participating member states and territories. The Commission does not have regulatory control over speech-language pathologists or audiologists or the practice of Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. It does not issue licenses, nor does it revoke licenses. Its only purpose is to facilitate interstate cooperation and the transfer of information between member states and territories. Regulatory control remains with the respective speech-language pathology and audiology licensing boards.
6. The Commission is not a new layer of bureaucracy, but rather an innovative modality that will enhance information sharing between state licensure boards, thereby expediting the licensing process and better protecting patients. The Commission has the ability to accept federal or private grants to fund its operation.
7. State participation in the Compact is, and will remain, voluntary. States are free to withdraw from the Compact at any time and may do so by repealing the enacted statute. The withdrawal provisions of the Interstate Compact are consistent with interstate compacts currently in place for a variety of purposes throughout the country.

The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact is a testament to the work of regulatory boards, speech-language pathology and audiology practitioners, and other key stakeholders to reach consensus in support of a state-based solution that will simultaneously expedite state license portability while ensuring the protection of the public.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 416 and urge you to support this legislation. As has been the case with the other health occupational licensure compacts we are confident that you will look at the long-range benefits that this legislation will have on expanding access to care and streamlining the licensing process for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Rick Masters

Richard L. ('Rick') Masters, J.D.
Special Counsel, National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments

UMDRehabNetwork_KellyMeusel_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Meusel, Kelli

Position: FAV



Angela Mezzomo <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Support for SB 416

1 message

K Meusel <kellimeusel@gmail.com>
To: pubpolspeech@gmail.com

Mon, Feb 10, 2020 at 4:29 PM

*Kelli J. Meusel, MS, CCC-SLP
Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist
University of Maryland
Upper Chesapeake Outpatient Rehabilitation Center
510 Upper Chesapeake Drive, Suite 514
Bel Air, MD, 21014
kmeusel@umm.edu
phone(443)643-3251
fax (443)643-3212*

Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

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

I hope I can count on your support for SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. 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/>.

Thank you,

Kelli J. Meusel, MS, CCC-SLP

Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist

University of Maryland Rehab Network

At Upper Chesapeake Health

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MSHA_AngelaMezzomo_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Mezzomo, H. Angela

Position: FAV

H. Angela Mezzomo, PhD, CCC-SLP
103 Mulberry Ave
Pasadena, MD 21122
Mezzomoang@aol.com

Re: House Bill 1112: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairperson Pendergrass,

I am writing to encourage your favorable report for HB 1112: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

I have been a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) for over 30 years, working in Maryland for the last 14 years. When I moved to Maryland, I needed to apply for a Maryland license. I was already licensed in New York and New Jersey. I also maintain my Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The licensing requirements in Maryland were not more stringent those in New York or New Jersey, nor were they nor stringent than those required by ASHA. Had I not been proactive in obtaining my license prior to moving, I would not have been able to start working immediately. However, the need for an additional license created a financial burden.

Since I moved to Maryland, I have served on the Governor's Commission on Autism (2009-2012) as well as the Telehealth Workgroup (2018-2019). I heard first hand from people who have difficulty finding licensed, qualified SLPs to provide services to people in more rural areas of our state, individuals who need highly specialized treatment techniques or finding an SLP to start treatment immediately to someone with a recent traumatic brain injury or other sudden incidents. School systems struggle to find therapists in order to meet the needs of students. There are therapists in neighboring states who may be willing to provide services, but unwilling to add one more fee to their ongoing expenses.

My husband is a disabled Vietnam Veteran. He has a significant hearing loss secondary to his service as a machinist mate in the US Navy. It took us several months to get appropriate hearing services for him after moving to Maryland. We initially traveled back to NY until our insurance would no longer pay for out of state services. Had an Interstate Compact been in place when we relocated, he would have more likely been able to receive services when we first moved.

Current Military spouses find themselves being relocated and having to start the licensing process in their new state. They may not have a choice in the relocation. The added burden of having to go through the licensing process, possible multiple times in a career can be taunting.

Passage of HB 1112 would be a big step to addressing some of the issues above, as well as other concerns outlined by ASHA. I hope that you will give HB 1112 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Dr. H Angela Mezzomo

GloriaJeannePetit-Clair_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Petit-Clair, Gloria Jeanne

Position: FAV

Gloria Jeanne Petit-Clair

434 Peach Court

Annapolis, MD 21409

410.279.1339

Dear Senator Kagan,

I am writing in support of SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). I am a long-time licensed SLP, former President of MSHA, Director of Public Policy and served as a state representative to ASHA's State Advisory Council. I am familiar with ASHA efforts in support of Interstate Compacts and am proud that Maryland has the opportunity to be at the forefront of this national effort.

I started in this profession in 1967, prior to ASHA's national requirement of a Certificate of Clinical Competency, licensure by Maryland Department of Health, licensure recognition by MSDE. I participated in the early discussions and planning for Interstate Compacts in my years of representing MD on the ASHA Advisory Council.

Each step by ASHA and MSHA in support of the work of Audiologists-Speech Pathologists and the consumers of their professional services has been thoughtful, incremental and reflected the changes in delivery of services, resulting from changing demographics, technology and legislation. It is a forward-looking research-based initiative that addresses the needs of both consumers and practitioners.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states which include:

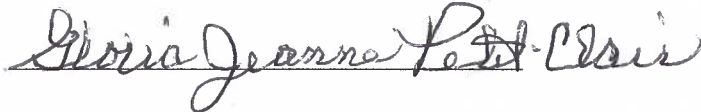
- Ability to provide services to underserved and geographically isolated persons through tele-practice.
- Facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients or students, return to their home communities or relocate to another within ASLP- IC.
- Give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

The ASHA-IC will improve consumer protection by:

- Ensuring the ethical and legal provision of services and reducing regulatory barriers.
- Promoting cooperation among ASLP-IC member states
- Ensure that audiologists and speech-language pathologists meet acceptable standards of practice.

As I reflect my long career arc as a Speech-Language Pathologist in both health care and education, I appreciate the growth of my profession that continues to be supported by legislative efforts. I strongly support passage of SB 416 as another step in the support of consumers of our services.

Thank you for your time and attention. 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/>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Jeanne Petit-Clair". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gloria Jeanne Petit-Clair, M.Ed.

ASHA # 00036020 MD License #00259

Audiologists Board_FAV_SB 416

Uploaded by: Robinson, candace

Position: FAV



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

**Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid
Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists**
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4723

**2020 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 416
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION: Support

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.

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

ASHA_RobbieRobinson_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Robinson, Robbie

Position: FAV

Robbie Robinson, M.S., CCC-SLP
Senior Speech-Language Pathologist
407 Central Avenue Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-517-5548

Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for HB 1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

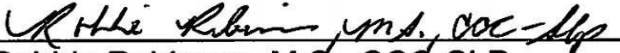
Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

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

I hope I can count on your support for HB 1112/SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. 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,


Robbie Robinson, M.S., CCC-SLP
Senior Speech-Language Pathologist

TheresaRodgers_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Rodgers, Theresa

Position: FAV



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

ASHA_JenniferSharpless_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Sharpless, Jennifer

Position: FAV

Jennifer Sharpless
1702 Blue Spruce Dr.
Sykesville, MD 21784
sharpless@kennedykrieger.org

Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for HB 1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating. In my work at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, we are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with pediatric developmental disabilities and disorders of the brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal system, through patient care, special education, research, and professional training. We treat children from all over the country, and with the ASLP-IC, we can better serve our patients.

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

I hope I can count on your support for HB 1112/SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. 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,

Jennifer Sharpless, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist

BarbaraStanton_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Stanton, Barbara

Position: FAV



Angela Mezzomo <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Interstate Compact

1 message

Barbara Stanton <stantonbarb@yahoo.com>
To: "pubpolspeech@gmail.com" <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 8:32 PM

The Interstate Compact is vitally important. It improves continuity of care, portability for military spouses, access to and choice of speech-language pathologists and audiologist. It simplifies and speeds up the current process.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Barbara Stanton, M.A., CCC-SLP

ASHA_DawnTrotter_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Trotter, Dawn

Position: FAV

DAWN TROTTER, MS, CCC-SLP

833 Glen Allen Dr. Baltimore, MD 21229 | 301-848-8030 | dwnltrtr@hotmail.com

2/10/2020

Dear Senator Kagan,:

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for HB 1112/SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating.

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

I hope I can count on your support for HB 1112/SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. 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,

Dawn Trotter

Dawn Trotter, MS, CCC-SLP

TowsonUniversity_ChristinaYeagerPelatti_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Yeager Pelatti, Christina

Position: FAV



February 11, 2020

Speech Language Pathology
& Audiology
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Mr. Dan Logsdon
Director
National Center for Interstate Compacts
Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

I am writing this letter of support for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact on behalf of the faculty and staff in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at Towson University

We enthusiastically support this legislation, which will allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice clinically across state lines. As such, this compact will provide benefits that are not currently available, including but not limited to, access to underserved and geographically isolated patients through telehealth and support for relocating military families. Thus, we are excited to provide our support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Christina Yeager Pelatti'.

Christina Yeager Pelatti, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Chairperson
Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
Towson University

InferCabulary_DeenaSeifert_FWA_SB0416

Uploaded by: Seifert, Deena

Position: FWA



Angela Mezzomo <pubpolspeech@gmail.com>

Support MD SB 0416

1 message

Deena Seifert <deena@infercabulary.com>
To: pubpolspeech@gmail.com

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 3:51 PM

I want to add my letter of support for this legislation - MD SB 0416.

I am a practicing speech-language pathologist who has been waiting for this legislation for 35 years! This bill would help me improve the continuity of care for my students as they cross state lines. It would improve access to SLP providers like me. It would facilitate teletherapy treatment to all of my students — I work exclusively with students in teletherapy and own a clinic of SLPs that see students in office and via teletherapy.

This bill would break down barriers to access and enhance portability. Please support this bill!

**Deena Seifert, M.S., CCC-SLP**Co-Founder / **InferCabulary by Communication Aptitude****P:** (410) 458-2845 **F:** (410) 630-6813**E:** deena@infercabulary.com **W:** Infercabulary.com

MSO_Brocato_Info_SB0416

Uploaded by: Brocato, Barbara

Position: INFO

MARYLAND SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGISTS

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 416 – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
COMMITTEES: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Paul Pinsky
DATE: Thursday, January 13, 2020
POSITION: Letter of Concern

The Maryland Society of Otolaryngologists (MSO) represents more than 300 physicians who live and practice in Maryland. Otolaryngologists are physicians who treat the ear, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck; most commonly referred to as ear, nose, and throat specialists (ENTs). The medical disorders treated by our physicians are among the most common that afflict all Americans, young and old. They include chronic ear infection, sinusitis, snoring and sleep apnea, hearing loss, allergies and hay fever, swallowing disorders, nosebleeds, hoarseness, dizziness, and head and neck cancer. Otorhinolaryngologists diagnose and treat disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. Our foremost commitment is to deliver the best patient care.

Senate Bill 416 as introduced “enters Maryland into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Licensure Compact (ASLP-IC) for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The bill establishes (1) specified procedures and requirements for audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain and maintain a compact privilege to practice audiology and speech-language pathology in a member state; (2) the composition, powers, and responsibilities of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission; and (3) requirements related to the oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement of the compact. The bill is contingent on similar legislation being enacted in nine other states.”

As we review the proposed actions in the bill, we ask that strong consideration be given to ensure that the proposed Interstate Compact for Audiology and Speech-language Pathology **does not** create unintended consequences such as:

- undoing the established licensure process in Maryland and create a compact that puts the protection of the public in the hands of a Multi-State Commission that can override state laws;
- becoming a vehicle for expansion of scope of practice in least restrictive states or seeking state jurisdictions that are the most favorable to actions they would like to take (corporate and otherwise); and
- Unlike the medical licensure compact where a physician must already be licensed to practice in a state, this compact attempts to create and allow for initial universal licensure for two very different professions. We feel a multistate compact is an inappropriate vehicle to use to establish initial licensure, and such licensure should begin within a particular state.

The MSO appreciates efforts to increase access to care and ensure sufficient numbers of providers to treat Maryland patients. **We ask that the MSO be included in ongoing discussions** regarding Senate Bill 416 to ensure Maryland’s Board retains their critically important regulation and oversight of their licensees and of those who may come to practice in Maryland under a compact arrangement.

For further information please contact:

Barbara Marx Brocato and Associates at (410) 269-1503 or barbara@bmbassoc.com

HEAU_O'Connor_INF_SB 416

Uploaded by: O'Connor, Patricia

Position: INFO

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General

WILLIAM D. GRUHN
Chief
Consumer Protection Division

ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

Writer's Direct Fax No.
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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

Writer's Direct Dial No.
(410) 576-6515

February 13, 2020

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 416 (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact):
Letter of concern

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) has discussed its concerns about the telehealth and conflict of laws provisions in Senate Bill 416 with the sponsor, and looks forward to resolution of the concerns through further discussions. This bill would enact into law an interstate licensure compact that would address increased demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services. Based on its work for healthcare consumers, the HEAU understands there is a high demand for speech-language therapy for children diagnosed with autism and autism spectrum disorders, for example. We support the aspects of the bill that could facilitate telehealth and in-person practice across state lines in ASLP-IC states.

However, section 5 would create a "Compact Privilege to Practice Telehealth," and provides: "Member states shall recognize **the right** of an audiologist or a speech-language pathologist, licensed by a home state in accordance with Section 3 and under rules promulgated by the Commission, **to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the Compact and rules promulgated by the Commission.**" (emphasis added) Page 12, lines 11-17. In addition, Section 14(B) would provide: "**All laws in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.**" Page 27, lines 18-19. We are concerned that these provisions, read together, could alter the application of Maryland's telehealth laws (which continue to evolve), and potentially insurance laws, in a manner that would be detrimental to consumers of these services. We will continue to work through these concerns with the sponsor.