

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:

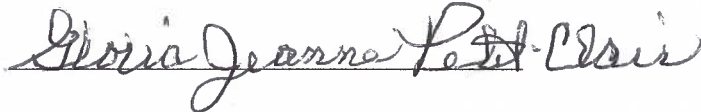
- Ability to provide services to underserved and geographically isolated persons through tele-practice.
- Facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients or students, return to their home communities or relocate to another within ASLP- IC.
- Give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain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