

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

