



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>

March 1, 2023

Senator Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy & Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT, SB 791 / HB 883 – Public School – Job Duties & Salaries

Dear Chairman Feldman and Chair Atterbeary:

On behalf of the Maryland Academy of Audiology, we are writing to support SB 791 and HB 883, Public School – Job Duties & Salaries.

Speech-language pathology is the sister profession to audiology and the two professions often work together to maximize patients' receptive and expressive communication abilities. Licensed speech-language pathologists (SLP) hold a minimum master's level degree from an accredited university and certification of clinical competence (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The level of education and training verifies that SLPs have the same rigor of standards as teachers and special educators who benefit from this piece of legislation. Enacting SB 791 and HB 883 and including SLPs would help school systems fill employment vacancies, thereby saving the district a significant amount of money as the need to hire outside contract SLPs would cease. Additionally, students will benefit from having on-site services provided, in-person, by the same SLP each session.

The MAA represents more than 525 licensed Audiologists who practice in the state of Maryland, and the patients they serve. The MAA's goal is to enhance the ability of members to achieve career and practice objectives by fostering professional autonomy, providing quality continuing education, and increasing public and consumer awareness of hearing and balance disorders and the value of audiologic services. By virtue of education and licensure, Audiologists are the most qualified professionals to manage hearing and balance disorders. An Audiologist is a state-licensed professional who specializes in evaluating, diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with hearing



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loss, tinnitus, and balance (vestibular) disorders. Audiologists work in a variety of settings: private practice offices, hospitals, medical centers, out-patient clinics, public and private schools, universities (teaching and research), regulatory agencies, large-scale research centers, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Military. Audiologists work closely with federal, state, and private third-party payers to optimize coverage of services provided for the evaluation and treatment of the patients in their care.

Thank you for your time and consideration and to Senators Elfreth and Kramer and Delegate Feldmark for sponsoring this legislation. I ask for a favorable committee report on SB 791 and HB 883.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leigh McCarthy, AuD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leigh McCarthy, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
President, MAA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Legislative Chair, MAA