



February 13, 2024

Bill: SB 795/HB 464 - Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA) represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development. As the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)-affiliated state association, MSHA represents the professions of audiology and speech language pathology, including over 350 ASHA certified audiologists who work in the state.

MSHA supports SB 795/HB 464, which would clearly delineate the scope of practice for audiology in Maryland. Osseointegrated devices, cochlear implant fitting, cerumen management, removing foreign objects bodies from the ear canal, and additional screenings of mental health and cognitive impairment to assess, treat, and refer are part of ASHA’s Scope of Practice in Audiology.

These are skilled services desperately needed by Marylanders and well understood to be included in the practice of audiology. Ordering cultures, bloodwork testing, and radiologic imaging, as regulated to the diagnosis, management, and treatment of auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear, enhances audiology practice. For these reasons, MSHA supports SB 795/HB 464.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Miskowski".

Megan Miskowski, M.S., CCC-SLP
MSHA Director of Advocacy and Public Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM".

Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM
MSHA Director of Audiology

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