



**Bill: HB 406: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists- Appointment of Members and Quorum**

**Position: SUPPORT**

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

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association 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. On behalf of MSHA, I write in support of HB 406.

The State Board plays a critical role in protecting public health by ensuring that audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, speech-language pathologists, and music therapists meet rigorous professional standards. These changes are essential to ensuring that the Board remains representative of the diverse disciplines it oversees and can effectively address the needs of the professionals and the public it serves. The Board and our profession are best served when the best candidates are appointed to fill vacancies and is at their discretion to consider and vet all possible candidates. For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 406.

Thank you,

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Director of Advocacy and Public Policy

Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

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