



February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Bill: HB 1383 - State Board of Education - Online Special Education System - Technical Requirements**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

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.* A large portion of our membership works in Maryland’s public schools and interacts with the Maryland Online Individual Education Program (MDOIEP) daily. Optimizing this system is vital to increasing functionality, job satisfaction, and ultimately retention of clinical providers – for which there is a dire shortage in Maryland schools.

In 2023, the American Physical Therapy Association reported<sup>1</sup> that clinical services are delayed, negatively impacting patient outcomes, because of the amount of time and resources clinicians must spend on documentation and administrative tasks. 86.3% of providers agreed or strongly agreed that administrative burden contributes to burnout. This is acutely felt by speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Maryland schools. We have large caseloads and in many districts in Maryland use the system to enter our daily notes. The effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the system has a major impact on our practice – and therefore students - in public schools. Thank you for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Miskowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Miskowski  
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

The Impact of Administrative Burden on Physical Therapist Services (2023), APTA