



February 8, 2026

Bill: HB504 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Physician Members – Repeal

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.

We are writing in support of **HB504** to repeal the two physician members from the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists. This would allow for the board to be more focused on the specific professions it regulates.

All the professionals on the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists have met the educational and license requirements necessary to practice in their respective fields, and are qualified to regulate licensing, disciplinary actions, and establishing scope of practice.

A quick search of other health professions, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and nursing, reveal that physicians are not included in the compositions of these boards in the state of Maryland. Similar to the boards mentioned, speech language pathologists, audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and music therapists are able to regulate themselves to protect public health and safety, and we ask you to repeal the physician members from the state board.

Thank you for your consideration,

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