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December 6, 2019

Dan Logsdon

Director

National Center for Interstate Compacts

Council of State Governments

1776 Avenue of the States

Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), including our American Stroke Association (ASA) division and over 30 million volunteers and supporters, we appreciate the opportunity to review the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The ASLP-IC would allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice face-to-face or by telehealth across state lines without having to be licensed in additional ASLP-IC states. It would also provide access to audiologists' and speech-language pathologists' services to individuals currently underserved or geographically isolated. This would be extremely important for stroke patients who live in rural or underserved areas where the nearest provider of rehabilitative services may be in a neighboring state.

The impact of stroke on individuals and families can be devastating and is well documented. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and a leading cause of severe, long-term disability in the United States. Rehabilitation services, which include audiology and speech-language therapy, help stroke patients get to maximize their recovery by regaining (or gaining, in the case of pediatric stroke survivors) abilities affected by stroke or developing compensatory skills that allow them to adapt to living with cognitive or physical deficits. These rehabilitation services help prevent long-term morbidity and improve functionality and quality of life for stroke patients. However, provider supply and distance to care, each associated with level of rurality, affect both the likelihood that a stroke patient will receive such therapy. We believe that the ASLP-IC would have the potential to mitigate this barrier to rehabilitative services for many stroke patients, thereby increasing their likelihood of long-term physical and speech-language functionality.

Good luck with your efforts and please keep us updated on your progress. Please contact Colby Tiner at colby.tiner@heart.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Schoeberl", written in a cursive style.

Mark Schoeberl
Executive Vice President
Advocacy

