

Melanie W. Hudson, M.A. CCC-SLP F-ASHA F-NAP
605 Woodview Trail
Canton, GA 30115

Dear Mr. Logsdon,

I am writing this letter in support of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact; legislation that would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to practice across state lines.

As a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I am aware of the benefits of this proposed compact, including benefits for consumers, states, and practitioners by:

- improving consumer protections across state lines;
- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and students;
- promoting cooperation between ASLP-IC member states;
- facilitating greater investigatory resources for state regulatory boards;
- providing support for relocating military spouses; and
- permitting practitioners to provide service to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice.

In addition, as a member of the Georgia Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, I fully recognize the increased mobility of practitioners and clients, changes to the health care system, and the rise of telehealth highlighting the need for clinicians to have the ability to practice across state boundaries with minimal barriers. A growing number of licensed professions— including medicine, nursing, physical therapy, psychology, and emergency medical services— have developed interstate occupational licensure compacts to enhance licensure portability from one state to another. The time has come for audiologists and speech-language pathologists to join this group of professionals in this compact, thereby facilitating their ability to practice across state lines.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Melanie W. Hudson