



December 2, 2019

Mr. 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 National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders (NFOSD), I am writing to support the proposed Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

The National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), patient-advocacy organization committed to providing patient hope and improvements in quality of life to those impacted by dysphagia (i.e., difficulty swallowing). By enhancing direct patient support, providing education, supporting promising research, and raising public, professional, and governmental awareness, our mission is to advance the prevention and treatment of swallowing disorders in our lifetime.

Our community is composed of thousands of patients, family members, and caregivers seeking support, referrals, and information about swallowing disorders. We receive daily inquiries from those impacted by dysphagia, requesting referrals to qualified swallowing specialists. For many in our community, most of whom are already facing physical and financial hardship related to their disability, their access to a qualified swallowing specialist is limited. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Membership Directory, less than 25% of the SLPs certified by ASHA practice in the area of dysphagia and less than 5% of those hold board-certification by the American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. Access to these qualified speech-language pathologists is also limited geographically.

Incorporating the ASLP-IC would benefit our community by permitting speech-language pathologists who treat patients with swallowing disorders to provide services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through tele-practice. Additionally, interstate licensure would allow the qualified speech-language pathologist from a nearby state to travel to an underserved area in another participating state and provide services to the patient there.

“Advancing the treatment of swallowing disorders in our lifetime.”

The NFOSD is proud to advocate for the implementation of the of the ASLP-IC. We are grateful to the National Center for Interstate Compacts for their leadership on this issue. If the NFOSD can provide additional assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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

Elizabeth Lipton, MS, CCC-SLP
Executive Director, National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders

“Advancing the treatment of swallowing disorders in our lifetime.”
