



MGH INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Charlestown Navy Yard 36 1st Ave.

Boston, MA 02129

January 10, 2020

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 Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) at the MGH Institute of Health Professions (MGHIHP), we are writing to support the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). As an organization committed to educating future health professionals and advocating for positive change within the healthcare system, we stand by the proposed legislation as it is a necessary mechanism for allowing audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice across state lines.

The ASLP-IC will provide several benefits to the public, including:

- Facilitating alternative service delivery methods (telehealth)
- Improving access to audiology and speech-language pathology services to in-need and at-risk populations by reducing geographical and logistical barriers
- Improving access to appropriately-skilled providers
- Improving continuity of care for consumers, including when providers/patients relocate or travel out-of-state
- Increasing employment opportunities for audiology and speech-language pathology professionals
- Enabling military spouses to more easily maintain their profession when relocating

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) oversees the practices of audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the country and accredits graduate programs that train students to become audiologists and speech-language pathologists. This accreditation makes graduates eligible for ASHA Certification of Clinical Competency upon completion of coursework, clinical practica and field experience. Currently, professionals in all states must also hold state licensure, approved by individual state boards. Most employers also require professionals to hold and maintain ASHA certification, making state-by-state licensure somewhat redundant. The MGH IHP CSD department is excited to lend our support to this effort that will ease some of the unnecessary licensure roadblocks for professionals, allowing for increased access to services for patients overall.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marjorie Nicholas in cursive.

Marjorie Nicholas, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow
Professor and Chair, Dept. of Comm. Sciences
and Disorders, MGH IHP

Handwritten signature of Amanda Worek in cursive.

Amanda Worek, MS, CCC-SLP
Faculty Telepractice Liaison