



College of
Arts & Sciences
Communicative Disorders

January 24, 2020

Dan Logsdon
Director of National Center for Interstate Compacts
Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40522

Dear Dr. Logsdon,

On behalf of the University of Alabama Department of Communicative Disorders, I am writing to express support for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) legislation that would allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice across state lines. As the director of a Communicative Disorders program that is located in a state with large rural areas, bordered by other states with large rural areas, I am well aware of the benefits of such a compact, not just for practitioners, but more importantly for the consumers of our services.

The compact will facilitate and expedite the time that it takes to get a license, which in turn, will expedite the time it takes for consumers to receive needed services. A number of licensed health professions have already developed interstate occupational licensure compacts. Licensees would still have to abide by all continuing education requirements, licensure statutes, and regulations of the state in which they seek to hold and maintain licensure.

The ASLP-IC would provide 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;
- permitting practitioners to provide service to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice.

Our department supports the ASLP-IC to enhance the ability of speech-language pathologists and audiologists to provide high quality care across state lines to positively impact the lives of patients they serve, and give access to those services to underserved populations living in rural areas. Please give careful consideration to this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Angela Barber, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
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