

To: Dan Logsdon, Director

 National Center for Interstate Compacts

From: Darlene S. Williamson, M.A., CCC-SLP

 President, National Aphasia Association (NAA)

Re: Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

On behalf of the entire governing board of the National Aphasia Association, I am writing to express our unanimous support for the legislation allowing audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice across state lines.

As the national organization representing families living with aphasia (it is estimated that there are at least 2 million individuals living with aphasia in the U.S.) we are privy to the lack of services to these families. Aphasia is an isolating disorder, leading to depression, largely because of the lack of communication skills necessary to re-engage in the community. The single biggest request through our website is help locating services. Unfortunately, there are not adequate services within reach of these families across large sections of the country. The ability to receive services virtually will be a game changer for the aphasia community by providing access to care that is not now available to them.

Therefore, as the voice of 2 million families, we offer vigorous support of the ASLP-IC. If there are any further measures we can take to assist with passage of this legislation, we stand ready to provide further evidence of the need for this expanded access to care. Thank you for respecting our community and receiving our request for support.

Should you have a need for further communication, please email the NAA directly at info@aphasia.org

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