

January 15, 2020

Dan Logsdon
Director of National Center for Interstate Compacts
Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon,

I am writing to support the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate legislation that would allow audiologists and speech –language-pathologists (SLPs) to practice across state lines. As the director of the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at the University of Kentucky, I believe that I am familiar with the issues surrounding the need for such a compact.

The compact will facilitate the process and expedite the time that it takes to get a license. Facilitate and expedite are the operative words here. Licensees would still have to abide by all continuing education (CE) requirements and licensure statutes and regulations of the state in which they are seeking licensure. The current licensing processes varies in terms of how approval for licensure is granted, but the information that each state requires is similar (i.e. transcripts, praxis exam scores). Additionally, each licensure board operates differently with some taking weeks and others months to issue license requests. Given that most states do in fact follow extremely similar professional “rules”, which in the case of SLPs and audiologists is the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC). Therefore a more streamlined, efficient mechanism for licensure approval such as a Compact would be a perfect solution.

Other benefits of this compact is that it will 1) help provide services in shortage areas, 2) help where specialists are needed to work with low incidence populations (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, severe disabilities) and 3) facilitate greater support for military spouses who relocate. This last point for Kentucky is quite relevant because of those who are serving at Fort Campbell.

Without such an option this would limit the capability of SLPs and audiologists’ ability to deliver services. It only makes sense to streamline this process when all of our professions trust the certification processes completed by SLPs and audiologists. Please give careful consideration to this option and know that we support this issue.

Sincerely,



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