



**HANDS &  
VOICES™**

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

December 23, 2019

Dear Dr. Mr. Logsdon

On behalf of Hands & Voices I am writing in support for the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact; legislation that would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to practice across state lines.

Hands & Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. We serve over 15,000 families across the U.S. and abroad, with over 47 chapters, including 4 chapters/startups in the provinces of Canada.

As a parent of a daughter who is deaf, and in my capacity as Executive Director of Hands & Voices, we believe this legislation will improve accessibility for our children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and allow for more choice in ensuring competent professionals can serve our kids. The combination of increased mobility of practitioners and clients, changes to the health care system, and the rise of telehealth highlights the need for clinicians to have the ability to practice across state boundaries with minimal barriers. A growing number of licensed professions—including medicine, nursing, physical therapy, psychology, and emergency medical services—have developed interstate occupational licensure compacts to enhance licensure portability from one state to another.

We support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet A. DesGeorges".

Janet DesGeorges  
Executive Director, Hands & Voices  
[janet@handsandvoices.org](mailto:janet@handsandvoices.org)

