

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

March 31, 2020

Dan Logsdon
Director
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 & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC); legislation that would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to practice across state lines. I am the program director of the Communication Disorders program at Texas State University, which is comprised of a large graduate program (approximately 40 new graduate students each year) that prepares speech-language pathologists and an undergraduate program that prepares up to 60 new students each year for graduate programs in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Texas is a vast state that is primarily medically underserved. A great deal of Texas is rural and telepractice has become a key tool in educating future professionals in serving clients in remote areas who would otherwise not have access to services. Texas State University has become a leader in telepractice services and research, but we are often challenged due to faculty needing to be licensed in other states. Faculty members at times have purposely narrowed the scope and reach of their research in telepractice to avoid the hurdles and bureaucracy of obtaining additional state licenses. I have one faculty member who has held licenses in five different states in his time here! Not having an ASLP-IC limits his ability to recruit clients from other states to come to the intensive therapy program and limits our program's ability to offer clinical services (i.e., student clinical education) via telepractice, even if it is for research. The time and expense are also barriers to students considering pursuing expertise in telepractice professionally.

Texas State University works hard to ensure that we educate future clinicians to exceed the highest standards and to not only meet the needs of the state of Texas, but also those of neighboring states that benefit from our innovation and outreach. I appreciate your time and effort and want to reiterate my exceptional strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,



Valarie B. Fleming, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Professor & Chair
Department of Communication Disorders
Texas State University

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This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.