

To whom it may concern:

June 10, 2020

On behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Audiology, I am writing in support of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), an occupational licensure compact, will enable states to meet increasing demands for audiology and speech-language pathology services while maintaining appropriate oversight necessary for consumer protection.

The Connecticut Academy of Audiology is a professional organization with current membership of approximately 60 fellows, state licensed audiologists who serve the hearing health care needs of Connecticut residents. Audiologists are health-care professionals recognized in state statute, by virtue of education and training, as qualified to evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing and balance disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow state licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to apply for a privilege to practice in other participating states and enable them to provide services across state lines—either face-to-face or through telepractice. This flexibility is needed in today's healthcare marketplace in order to help promote continuity of care for patients who travel or relocate as well as to facilitate job mobility for providers. Because each state that participates in the compact will continue to regulate the actual practice of audiology and speech-language-pathology and maintain their individual scopes of practice—states will not cede any regulatory autonomy. In addition, states that participate in the compact will be able to share provider disciplinary actions, providing an additional layer of consumer protection.

Occupational licensure compacts like the ASLP-IC are supported by the Federal Trade Commission that found that “by enhancing the ability of licensees to provide services in multiple states, and to become licensed quickly upon relocation, license portability initiatives can benefit consumers by increasing competition, choice, and access to services, especially with respect to licensed professions where qualified providers are in short supply.”¹ In conclusion, The Connecticut Academy of Audiology supports the adoption of the ASLP-IC. As the demand for audiology and speech-language pathology services continues to grow, innovative approaches to address gaps in care are needed to meet the needs of patients.

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¹ https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/options-enhance-occupational-license-portability/license_portability_policy_paper.pdf