



**ASHA**  
American  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland Senate  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 288 & SB 183, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Chairman Pinsky:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 288 and SB 183, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 4,050 ASHA members reside in Maryland.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. ASHA is pleased to support this bill, which will:

- Increase access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- Facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at [sadams@asha.org](mailto:sadams@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2021 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Maryland* [Quick Facts] <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/Maryland-State-Flyer.pdf>