

1/24/21

Senator Pinsky

2 West

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 183: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Dear

Chairperson Pinsky,

I am writing to request your favorable report for SB 183: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. I have been working as a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) for 34 years. I currently supervise over 130 SLPs in Howard County Public Schools.

At this time, when a licensed professional leaves one state to work in another, they must undergo the licensing process in their new state. This results in a lag in starting a job, increased expense for the practitioner and delays in receiving services for students, patients, or clients. Passage of SB 183 would:

- Addresses increased demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services.
- Authorizes both telehealth and in-person practice across state lines in ASLP-IC states.
- Is similar in form and function to occupational licensure compacts for nursing, psychology, medicine, physical therapy and emergency medical services.
- Increases public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- Enhances the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
- Encourages the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate audiology and speech-language pathology practice;
- Supports spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;
- Enhances the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information between member states;
- Allows a remote state to hold a provider of services with a Compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and
- Allows for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to audiology and speech language pathology services.

As of January 2021, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact has been enacted in six states: West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Utah.

Thank you so much for your consideration on behalf of individuals with communication, hearing and swallowing disorders and the therapists who serve them. I hope that you will give SB183 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Susan La Count, MS., M.Ed., CCC-SLP

