

NICK CHARLES  
Legislative District 25  
Prince George's County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and  
Long Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### Favorable Testimony

HB0288 – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, I am pleased and grateful for the opportunity to testify *in support* of House Bill: 0288. This piece of legislation would enter Maryland into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). This simplifies and speeds up the current process of certifying personnel to practice over State lines, and addresses portability & barriers to access issues. As demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services increases, it is imperative that Maryland authorizes both telehealth and in-person practices across state lines in ASLP-IC states to address that demand.

Currently, State lines pose significant barriers for audiologists and speech-language pathologists licenses. These barriers pose significant consequences to many Maryland citizens, including:

- Patients who relocate to another State;
- Military personnel and spouses who relocate often;
- Underserved communities;
- Geographically isolated communities; and
- Students relocating to college/university.

HB0288 increases audiology and speech-pathology access to client, patient and student care. Furthermore, it facilitates continuity of care when clients, patients, and students relocate or travel.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, legislation to approve ASLP-IC has been enacted in Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Legislation has been introduced in Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. Maryland must join these states to showcase our commitment to guaranteeing the best access to healthcare for Marylanders. By tying Maryland to a State compact, this legislation would certify that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice. It further promotes cooperation between ASLP-IC states in the areas of licensure and regulation and offers a higher degree of consumer protection across State lines. For these reasons, I encourage a favorable report on HB0288.

Sincerely,

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Nick Charles

Maryland State Delegate - District 25

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Charles", enclosed in a light gray rectangular border.

Nick Charles

Maryland State Delegate - District 25