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Dear Senator Kagan,

As your constituent, speech-language pathologist, and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I ask for your support for SB 416, the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This would allow these professionals to increase access to care by providing services to underserved or geographically isolated populations through telepractice and helping facilitate continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact state. It will also give military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating. In my work at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, we are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with pediatric developmental disabilities and disorders of the brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal system, through patient care, special education, research, and professional training. We treat children from all over the country, and with the ASLP-IC, we can better serve our patients.

The ASLP-IC will improve consumer protection by ensuring the ethical and legal provision of services and reducing regulatory barriers. The ASLP-IC will promote cooperation among ASLP-IC member states and ensure that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice.

I hope I can count on your support for SB 416. Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions, please contact me or Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative & regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org, or visit <https://aslpcompact.com/>.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sharpless, M.S., CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist