



*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary*

**Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists**  
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February 4, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Affairs Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 288- Health Occupations – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology  
Interstate Compact - Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists (the “Board”) is submitting this Letter of Support for HB 288 – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

HB 288, as written, serves to enter the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology into an Interstate Compact (“Compact”). Participation in this Compact facilitates the goal of improving public access to Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services by providing for mutual recognition of other member state licenses. In doing so, the bill helps to regulate multistate Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services, enhancing the ability of states to protect the public’s health and safety. Additionally, the bill strengthens the support of telehealth technology and lessens the burden on relocating active duty military personnel and/or their spouses, ultimately facilitating increased public access to Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology services.

The bill does address the critical need for providing telehealth services to those outside of a licensee’s home state by doing away with the need to obtain additional licenses. In essence, by removing the requirement to obtain a license outside of an individual’s home state, the compact enables public citizens residing in rural areas with limited clinic access to receive more immediate care.

The Board had previously issued concerns on SB183/HB288, but since the hearing for SB183, the Board received a letter sent by the Council of State Governments (CSG), which addressed the

Board's concerns. Subsequently, the Board held an emergency open meeting in which CSG provided further clarity regarding our concerns, which have all been satisfied.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests the Committee consider a favorable report on HB 288 in relation to the Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists Executive Director, Candace Robinson, at (443) 915-7981 or [candace.robinson@maryland.gov](mailto:candace.robinson@maryland.gov) .

Sincerely,



Candace G. Robinson, Au.D.  
Board Executive Director

cc: Delegate Charles

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*