



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Via email: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island Legislature
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H. 8219

Dear Representative Donovan:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for H. 8219, which would adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 800 ASHA members reside in Rhode Island.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support H. 8219, which will address these issues by:

- Enhancing consumer protection, while maintaining state sovereignty.
- Increasing access to care.
- Improving continuity of care when clients, patients, and/or students travel.
- Supporting spouses of relocating active-duty military personnel.

Approval of this legislation would enable Rhode Island to become a part of the ASLP-IC, joining 31 other member states. ASHA is pleased to be joined by U.S. Department of Defense, the Rhode Island Speech-Language-Hearing Association and over 30 national organizations, in supporting this legislation.² I hope this important legislation will be adopted in 2024, so Rhode Island practitioners and residents with communication disorders can enjoy the benefits of the ASLP-IC.

If you or your staff have any questions, need assistance or want to discuss further, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP
2024 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Rhode Island* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/rhode-island-state-flyer.pdf>.

² Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. Supporting Organizations. <https://aslpcompact.com/supporting-organizations/>.