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TTY: 771
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March 12, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S 2857 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Dear Chair Murray:

Please accept this letter regarding S 2857, legislation that would repeal the older of the two existing chapters related to speech-language pathologists and audiologists and would make several amendments to reconcile the two statutes into one chapter. This legislation was introduced at the request of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

Legislation was enacted in 2023 that contradicts another speech language pathologists and audiologist statute. ([Original \(5-48\)](#) and [New \(5-48.2\)](#)) RIDOH implemented the new assistant licensing categories that were created in 2023 and updated in 2025, but the requirements remain confusing based on the conflicting statutes. RIDOH currently has 11 active licenses and three pending licenses.

Licensing applicants must have clear and non-conflicting legislative language to understand what is required of them, and every effort must be made to eliminate confusion. S 2857 would simply repeal one of the statutes and combine the new language into one statute. These changes do not represent a policy change.

RIDOH encourages the Committee's favorable consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Hanna M. Gallo
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Patricia Resende, Director of Senate Policy