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October 2, 2020

The Honorable Senator Barrow Peacock
1619 Jimmie Davis Highway
Bossier City, LA 71123

Dear Senator Peacock:

The American Academy of Audiology is pleased to support the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)—an occupational licensure compact that will enable states to meet increasing demands for audiology and speech-language pathology services while maintaining appropriate oversight necessary for consumer protection. We support legislative efforts, such as Louisiana S.B.34, to advance the ASLP-IC.

The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by and for audiologists. Representing the interests of approximately 14,000 audiologists nationwide, the Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

The ASLP-IC will allow state licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to apply for a privilege to practice in other participating states and enable them to provide services across state lines--either face-to-face or through telepractice. This flexibility is needed in today's healthcare marketplace to help promote continuity of care for patients who travel or relocate, as well as to facilitate job mobility for providers. Because each state that participates in the compact will continue to regulate the actual practice of audiology and speech-language-pathology and maintain their individual scopes of practice, states will not cede any regulatory autonomy. In addition, states that participate in the compact will be able to share provider disciplinary actions, providing an additional layer of consumer protection.

Occupational licensure compacts like the ASLP-IC are supported by the Federal Trade Commission that found that "by enhancing the ability of licensees to provide services in multiple states, and to become licensed quickly upon relocation, license portability initiatives can benefit consumers by increasing competition, choice, and access to services, especially with respect to licensed professions where qualified providers are in short supply."¹

The American Academy of Audiology supports the adoption of the ASLP-IC. As the demand for audiology and speech-language pathology services continues to grow, innovative approaches to address gaps in care are needed to meet the needs of patients.

Sincerely,

Susan Pilch, JD
Senior Director of Government Relations

¹ https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/options-enhance-occupational-license-portability/license_portability_policy_paper.pdf