



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

February 17, 2023

Representative Liz Thomson
Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
New Mexico Legislature
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: HB 391

Dear Representative Thomson:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 391, with amendments, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 1,450 ASHA members reside in New Mexico.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice 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 HB 391, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

However, there are some concerns with the bill language, and we would ask for the following amendments recommend by the ASLP-IC Commission Counsel to ensure the bill is consistent with the model compact legislation and what has passed in other states.

- Page 3, line 17: insert the word “member” before the word “state’s”
- Page 8, line 9: remove the words “seeking privilege to practice”
- Page 9, line 13: remove the word “board” and insert the word “Commission” in its place
- Page 9, line 23-24: remove the words “seeking privilege to practice”

Passage of this bill would allow New Mexico to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states. We appreciate your sponsorship and hope that the Committee will pass this important legislation with amendments to ensure New Mexico can join the ASLP-IC.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA’s director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

2200 Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850-3289 • actioncenter@asha.org • 301-296-5700 • www.asha.org

Robert M. Augustine, PhD, CCC-SLP
2023 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *New Mexico* [Quick Facts].
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/new-mexico-state-flyer.pdf>.