



April 10, 2023

The Honorable Dafna Michaelson Jenet
200 E Colfax Ave
Colorado State Capitol, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203-1776

RE: Support Telehealth; HB 1256

Dear Representative Michaelson Jenet:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 1256, which authorizes Colorado licensed, certified, or registered health care professionals to provide care via telehealth to patients or clients located in another state if the professional is authorized to practice the profession in the other state pursuant to an interstate compact or other grant of authority from the other state.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders. Over 4,300 ASHA members reside in Colorado.¹

As the leading national organization for the certification and advancement of audiologists and speech-language pathologists, ASHA supports the development and use of telehealth or “telepractice.” ASHA maintains a collection of professional practice documents, including a position statement that defines telemedicine as “the application of telecommunications technology to deliver professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.”

ASHA strongly supports the use of telehealth. Research demonstrates the equivalence of telehealth to in-person service delivery for a wide range of diagnostic and treatment procedures for adults and children. Studies have shown high levels of patient, clinician, and parent satisfaction supporting telehealth as an effective alternative to the in-person model for delivery of care. Telehealth expands practitioners’ availability to those in need—regardless of geographic location—saving time and resources for both the provider and the patient.

Despite proven benefits, telehealth remains underutilized within audiology and speech-language pathology due to a lack of clear state laws governing its use or mandating

appropriate reimbursement for services delivered. House Bill 1256 helps address these barriers by supporting access to care via telehealth.

Thank you for considering ASHA's support for HB 1256. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Augustine". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Colorado* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/colorado-state-flyer.pdf>.