



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

February 6, 2023

Representative Lori Houghton
Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: H. 86

Dear Representative Houghton:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support H. 86, 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 550 ASHA members reside in Vermont.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 H. 86, 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.

Passage of this bill would allow Vermont to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states, including neighboring New Hampshire. The United States Department of Defense State Liaison Office and the Vermont Speech-Language-Hearing Associations joins ASHA in supporting H. 86.

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,

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

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