



August 26, 2022

The Honorable Janet Mills
Governor
State of Maine
210 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing Vacancies

Dear Governor Mills:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Maine Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSLHA), we write to urge you to ensure the Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing (Board) is fully seated.

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. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Over 980 ASHA members reside in Maine.¹

The composition of the Board was written to include two audiologists, two SLPs, two hearing aid fitters, and one public member. As of August 19, 2022, the Maine Secretary of State's office reported only one audiologist, one SLP, one hearing aid fitter, and one public member currently serving on the Board—all of whom with expired terms of office.² It is in the best interest of the Board and our professions that these seats be filled as soon as possible and ask that you to do so in an expedited manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. 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 or Alice Smith, MSLHA's President, at aesmith1999@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Rich".

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL
2022 ASHA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Smith".

Alice Smith, PhD, CCC-SLP
MSLHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Maine* [Quick Facts].

<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/advocacy/state-fliers/maine-state-flyer.pdf>.

² Maine.gov Boards & Commissions. *Online Service Search*. Accessed on August 19, 2022.

https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/icrs/boards/public_board-info.pl?sos_id=5144.