



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 30, 2023

Senator Jason Small
Chair
Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs
Montana General Assembly
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: SB 214

Dear Senator Small:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 214 which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

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 600 ASHA members reside in Montana.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 2033, which will address these issues by:

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

Passage of this bill would allow Montana to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states, including the neighboring states of Idaho and Wyoming. The Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the United States Department of Defense State Liaison Office join ASHA in supporting SB 214.

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. (2022). *Montana* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/montana-state-flyer.pdf>