



1925-2025
Legacy. Impact. Possibilities.

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Senator Ohrenschall
P.O. Box 97741
Las Vegas, NV 89193-7741

RE: SB 174

Dear Senator Ohrenschall:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to express support for Senate Bill 174, with amendments, which includes a definition of private instructional personnel who may serve pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 1,100 ASHA members reside in Nevada.¹

SB 174 includes SLPs and registered behavior technicians in the definition of private instructional personnel authorized to treat students with ASD. ASHA supports a multidisciplinary approach to assessing and treating those with ASD. However, ASHA recommends removing registered behavior technicians from the definition of private instructional personnel in 7, b, 1, due to their differing education and experience standards.

SLPs are experts in social communication, which is one of the defining criteria for those with autism.² They have the education, training, and clinical experience in preventing, assessing, diagnosing, and treating speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in both children and adults. SLPs possessing the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) must complete a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders from an educational program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) with a supervised practicum, a clinical fellowship with a minimum of 400 clock hours of clinical experience supervised by an ASHA-certified SLP, and pass the Praxis Examination in Speech-Language Pathology.³ Those with their CCC must also meet continuing education requirements.

For licensure, Nevada requires SLPs to pass an exam approved by the licensing board and complete at least 150 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in speech-language pathology as well as completing continuing education requirements. In contrast to SLPs, registered behavior technicians are paraprofessionals with a high school diploma, or equivalent, who have completed a 40-hour course training.

Thank you for considering ASHA's comments to remove registered behavior technicians from SB 174. 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. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP
2025 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Nevada* [Quick Facts].
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/nevada-state-flyer.pdf>

² American Speech-Language Hearing Association. (n.d.). *ASHA-Certified Speech-Language Pathologists and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/asha-slp-asd-flyer.pdf>

³ Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. (n.d.). <https://caa.asha.org/>.