



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 25, 2023

Delegate Wendell Walker
Chair
House Health, Welfare and Institutions Subcommittee #3
Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building, Room E309
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: HB 2033

Dear Delegate Walker:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 2033, 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 4,800 ASHA members reside in Virginia.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 Virginia to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states, including the neighboring states of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. The United States Department of Defense State Liaison Office joins ASHA in supporting HB 2033.

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). *Virginia* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/advocacy/state-fliers/virginia-state-flyer.pdf>.