

## OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REFORM

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

In many states, legislation and/or regulations have been introduced that would address differing aspects of occupational licensure. States are looking to increase oversight of licensing boards, implement least restrictive means of regulating professions (which may prohibit individuals from identifying themselves as ASHA-certified), and institute periodic review of occupational licensure laws.

### **ISSUE: Boards should be composed of members from audiology and speech-language pathology licensure.**

- Audiology and speech-language pathology licensure should be maintained with boards composed of members from both professions. These boards should also have a public member who can assess the potential harm or benefit to the health, safety, or welfare of consumers. Creating new committees to oversee the professions will be costly and will result in a lack of expertise on the part of the committee.
- Additionally, replacing or reducing the number of audiologists or speech-language pathologists on a state's licensure board would weaken the capacity of a board to understand the issues facing the professions and the scopes by which they abide.
- Licensure should also ensure that professionals holding a professional credential can continue to identify themselves with that credential.

### **SOLUTION: Maintain autonomous audiology and speech-language pathology licensure boards.**

ASHA is asking decision makers to maintain autonomous audiology and speech-language pathology licensure boards. By doing so, legislators and/or regulators can ensure that they have the most effective resources for managing consumer concerns and maintaining the quality standards for the professionals who serve them.

ASHA also asks that decision makers continue to allow those with professional certifications, such as ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Audiology (CCC-A) and ASHA's Certificate of Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), to identify themselves as such.

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