



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

January 31, 2018

Senator James Hamper  
Representative Drew Gattine  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
c/o Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 687

Dear Chairmen Hamper and Gattine:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I am writing to ask for your support on LD 687, regarding reimbursement for speech and language pathology services.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 191,500 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 830 of our members reside in Maine.

LD 687 would increase MaineCare speech therapy reimbursement rates. Due to historically low reimbursement rates, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) have not been able to sustain small businesses in Maine. Consequently, there is a shortage of SLPs who are able to provide services under MaineCare. Therefore, preschool children are not receiving the early intervention speech-language therapy services they deserve.

ASHA urges you to pass LD 687 to raise MaineCare reimbursement rates for speech-language pathologists. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory advocacy, at [sadams@asha.org](mailto:sadams@asha.org).

Sincerely,

Elise Davis-McFarland, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2018 ASHA President