



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor
State of Georgia
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: HB 34, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Governor Kemp:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to ask that you sign HB 34, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), into law.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 5,400 ASHA members reside in Georgia.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. ASHA is pleased to support this bill, which will:

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

It is important to note that the State of Georgia retains control over its practice act and its practitioners under HB 34. The legislation ensures that only individuals licensed in another compact state who have received an FBI fingerprint-based background check would be able to practice through the compact. In addition, the ASLP-IC expands the prosecutorial reach of member states by allowing conduct in member states to be used as a basis of disciplinary action.

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,

A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP
2021 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Georgia* [Quick Facts] <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/Georgia-State-Flyer.pdf>.