



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Sue Wilson
Wyoming House of Representatives
P.O. Box 21035
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RE: House Bill 115

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express opposition to HB 115, which creates a multidisciplinary clinical advisory panel to review applications of unregulated health professions.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 300 ASHA members reside in Wyoming.

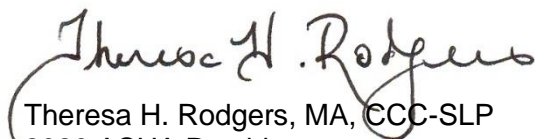
Regulatory oversight, legislated through occupational licensure, is the accepted practice for consumer protection. The public relies on the expertise of the Wyoming State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to ensure that those in practice are held to the highest standards of the profession.

ASHA believes that creating a multidisciplinary clinical advisory panel is redundant and costly due to the existence of current licensure boards. ASHA further believes that licensing boards are best equipped with the ability to review applications of unregulated health professions that, if approved, would fall under their regulatory jurisdiction.

Licensure helps ensure the quality provision of audiology, speech-language pathology, and support personnel services. State licensure provides consumer protection and recourse against incompetent practitioners and/or those acting in an unethical manner so that they may be removed from practice.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position on HB 115 and recognizing the importance of the existing Wyoming State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board in regulating health professions. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,



Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President