



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

February 15, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Borrelli
Chair, Government Committee
Arizona State Capitol
1700 W Washington Street, Room 205
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: SB 1184

Dear Senator Borrelli:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to oppose SB 1184, which would create an interstate compact for the temporary licensure of professionals.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 198,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 2,800 of our members reside in Arizona.

ASHA understands there are concerns in Arizona about the adequacy of the workforce available to meet consumer demand, and that the state has proposed creating a temporary licensure compact to address these concerns. However, ASHA believes that Arizona is attempting to address a problem that does not exist for our professions. In 48 states, audiology and speech-language pathology licensing boards have already included reciprocity provisions in their licensure standards in order to expedite licensure for speech and hearing professionals.

In its current form, SB 1184 could pose problems for professions that already have proven reciprocity provisions in effect. In the case of those professions, SB 1184 has the potential to weaken the standards already in place to protect the public, while undermining the mobility that currently exists. ASHA believes that states would be better served by enforcing existing reciprocity requirements or developing provisions for those professions that don't have them. For audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who are moving to a state, the proposed interstate compact will not simplify or accelerate the process of obtaining a full professional license.

SB 1184 would create unfunded responsibilities for licensure boards to develop a communication system for replying to requests from other states because there is no compact commission to oversee the day-to-day operations of the compact. In addition, states would have to develop a mutual reporting mechanism to share disciplinary actions that occur after the licensee has obtained the temporary license. These additional burdens may slow, rather than streamline, the licensing process.

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For these reasons, we urge you to oppose this legislation. Thank you for your consideration. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elise Davis-McFarland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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