



March 5, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Minnesota Academy of Audiology (MAA) is writing to support SF 2656, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). MAA represents and promotes excellence in advancing hearing and balance healthcare in the profession of audiology in Minnesota.

Please support adoption of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. ASLP-IC facilitates the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology by securing the privilege to practice in a member state and telehealth. Currently audiologists and speech-language pathologists who practice in border towns (Duluth/Superior, Fargo/Moorhead, etc.) need to be licensed in each state they provide services. Large healthcare facilities and large private practices need to have employees licensed in multiple states, which is an economic and administrative burden for providers and employers.

The provision of services by telehealth for both audiologists and speech-language pathologists require licensure in the state the provider is physically in and the state the patient is physically located at the time the services are provided. Adoption of ASLP-IC increases access to telehealth services for patients who are traveling, who winter or summer in different state, or college students who are out of state. This allows access to the patient's established provider and can reduce expense for the patient.

ASLP-IC provides a mechanism to allow for the legal, ethical, and regulated practice of interstate practice and telehealth by granting qualified audiologists and speech-language pathologists the privilege to practice in ASLP IC member states; allowing telehealth to be practiced in ASLP-IC member states; allowing for increased access to underserved communities; and giving military personnel and spouses a means to maintain their profession when relocating. ASLP-IC addresses obligations of the home state; obligations of the member states; how adverse actions are resolved; and compact funding and governance.

ASLP-IC would ensure the ethical and legal provision of services and reduce regulatory barriers while still protecting the public and establish consistencies in the regulatory requirements around the provision of services. Passing this bill would reduce the economic burden for employers and providers, in addition to reducing the administrative burden of tracking continuing education in multiple states.

If you have further questions regarding MAA's support of SF2656, please reach out to Rebecca Younk, chair of the MAA Governmental Relations Committee, at [govrelations@minnesotaaudiology.org](mailto:govrelations@minnesotaaudiology.org).

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Chair - Governmental Relations Committee

Minnesota Academy of Audiology