

Members of the Education Committee -

I am an audiologist at a private practice with 5 offices in Kansas. I would like to voice my support for SB 490 to enact the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

Benefits would include the following:

- Improves continuity of care
- Improves portability for military spouses
- Improves access to audiology and speech-language pathology providers
- Increases choice of audiology and speech-language pathology providers
- Facilitates alternate delivery methods (Telehealth)
- Simplifies/speeds up the current process
- Addresses portability & barriers to access

Services would be provided in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the encounter. Kansas already has 3 existing interstate compacts that function similarly for physicians, nurses and emergency medical personnel.

In addition to the benefits of the bill, Kansas is in a unique position to be one of the first 10 states which would ensure that a representative from Kansas would have an ongoing role in developing rules and by-laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill for Kansas residents, audiologists, and speech-language providers.

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