



To: House Health and Human Service Committee
From: Stacie Clarkson, Associate Executive Director
Date: March 9, 2021
RE: Support of SB 77

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 77, enacting the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). As a speech language pathologist and school administrator, I have witnessed the increasing demand for speech language therapy services in recent years. Due to shortages of speech language pathologists across our state, it is not uncommon for SLPs to have high caseloads which lead to further burdens on delivering patient care.

Allowing Kansas to participate in the ASLP-IC may ease this burden by increasing the availability therapists to ultimately support those in need of speech, language, and hearing services. The Interstate Compact would afford practitioners licensure flexibility to practice in-person and through telehealth in ASLP-IC states through their home state licensing regulations.

By joining the six states that have already passed this legislation and the fifteen states that have introduced this type of legislation, Kansas will be helping to ease the burdens of systems and patients in need of speech-language and hearing services by creating more access to qualified therapists.

Thank you for your consideration in support of SB 77.

Sincerely,

Stacie Clarkson

Stacie Clarkson
Associate Executive Director

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