



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

March 10, 2015

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
New York Assembly
LOB 654
Albany, NY 12248

RE: A. 5141

Dear Assemblyman Santabarbara:

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 182,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 16,000 of our members reside in New York.

On behalf of our members, I am writing to offer our support for A. 5141, which would offer consumers of vocational rehabilitation services in the State of New York access to communication support services in order to improve their ability to secure gainful and meaningful employment outcomes. Speech-language pathologists are qualified to provide the communication services needed by these individuals.

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are uniquely educated and trained to assess and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders in children and adults. Including pragmatic language services from speech-language pathologists in ongoing vocational rehabilitation programs would enable individuals to demonstrate sufficient attention, memory, and organizational skills to function in their environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory advocacy, at sadams@asha.org, or Janet Deppe, ASHA's director of state advocacy, at jdeppe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Page, PhD, CCC-SLP
2015 ASHA President