

Subject: Letter of Support for New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board to express our unanimous support for the New Mexico Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (NMSHA) efforts to pursue adding a speech-language pathology assistant license to the state of New Mexico.

The New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board is committed to the highest standards of professional practice and ethical conduct of speech language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers, and is aware of a great need to improve accessibility of speech therapy throughout the Land of Enchantment. By adding a license for speech-language pathology assistants, New Mexico will improve access to care by making licenses more easily accessible to obtain for both native New Mexicans who hold a Bachelor's degree and attractive to current license holders who come from out of state.

We believe that the addition of speech-language pathology assistants will not only facilitate the mobility of professionals to deliver vital services to the diverse needs of New Mexicans but will also foster a stronger network of professionals throughout our state, dedicated to improving communication disorder services. Further, an additional license will increase economic opportunities for those not interested in pursuing a graduate-level degree.

The New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board recognizes the importance of improving access to care in communication disorders, and we are confident that a new license for speech-language pathology assistants will significantly contribute to the achievement of these shared goals.

Thank you for considering our letter of support. The New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board looks forward to witnessing the positive impact of the adding a speech-language pathology assistant licensure in our state.

Sincerely,



James Decker, Au.D. CCC-A/SLP

Chair, Professional Member

New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board

