



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

March 9, 2015

Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
3131 Western Ave
Seattle, WA 98121-1098

RE: S.B. 5132

Dear Senator Kohles-Welles:

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 (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 3,100 of our members reside in Washington.

On behalf of our members, I am providing comments on the proposed legislation related to the creation of the Washington health security trust. We commend you for introducing this bill to provide improved health care access for the residents of Washington.

S.B. 5132 includes the provision of both speech and hearing services as part of rehabilitative services. We recommend adding habilitative services to Section 11 (2). The inclusion of habilitative services—including audiology and speech-language pathology—will enable individuals to learn, keep, or improve skills and functional abilities that they may not be developing normally. Both adults and children will benefit from the addition of habilitative services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org, or Janet Deppe, ASHA's director of state advocacy, at jdeppe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

JUDITH PAGE, PH.D., CCC-SLP
2015 ASHA President