



# ROB STAFSHOLT

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Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Senator Rob Stafsholt

DATE: September 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Senate Bills 196, 197, 391 & 400

Thank you, Chairwoman Cabral-Guevara and members of the Senate Committee on Health, for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bills 196, 197, 391 and 400.

Over the last few years, I have heard from many frustrated constituents that are dealing with unnecessary delays, confusion and lack of communication while attempting to get an occupational license from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). These unnecessary delays cause individuals to have to postpone starting their careers or stops them from entering the workforce. Wisconsin's healthcare and business sectors are struggling to find qualified workers so we need to ensure our licensure process is streamlined and functions efficiently. We cannot afford to fall behind other states in attracting skilled individuals to live and work in our state.

In response, leadership created the Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses, and I was honored to be appointed as Chair. The study committee was created with the goal of finding solutions so current and future license holders can be licensed in a timely manner. The committee was made up of two Republican and two Democratic legislators as well as five members of the public.

Through our conversations with licensed professionals, research and policy groups, and DSPS, our study committee focused our bill recommendations on three primary issue areas: data tracking, workload simplification, and reciprocal credentialing. The following bills being heard today fall under the third issue area of reciprocal credentialing:

- Senate Bill 196 relating to ratification of the Counseling Compact.
- Senate Bill 197 relating to ratification of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.
- Senate Bill 391 relating to ratification of the Social Work Licensure Compact.
- Senate Bill 400 relating to ratification of the PA Licensure Compact

Senate Bill 196 and 197 are both interstate compacts that the study committee members broadly supported and recommended them for introduction. Senate Bills 391 and 400 are also interstate compacts that we didn't have enough time to discuss before our final hearing.

Interstate compacts allow states to create an agreement and implement standards for occupational licensing of specific professions. These compacts would allow professional, licensed individuals residing in a compact member state to practice in other member states without the need for multiple licenses. Compacts provide a clear pathway for professionals to move seamlessly from one state to another through an agreement among states to recognize another state's occupational license.

Wisconsin has recently enacted legislation allowing our state to participate in a number of interstate compacts including the Physical Therapy Compact, the Occupational Therapy Compact, the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC), and others.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be happy to answer any questions.



**SB 197 Legislative Testimony (Information Only)  
Wisconsin Senate Health Committee**

**September 27, 2023**

Chair Cabral-Guevara and Senate Health Committee Members:

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a nonpartisan membership organization that serves the three branches of state governments. The CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts is a technical assistance provider for states on interstate compacts. CSG has provided technical assistance to states during the development, legislative consideration, and administration of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact (ASLP Compact).

The ASLP Compact is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, enabling audiologists and speech-language pathologists licensed in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without the need for multiple licenses. Like other interstate licensure compacts, the ASLP Compact is designed to improve access to services, enhance mobility for practitioners, support relocating military spouses, improve continuity of care, and ensure cooperation among compact member states.

The ASLP Compact reflects how states license audiologists and speech-language pathologists. For example, to participate in the compact, a state must require licensees to pass a nationally recognized exam, graduate from an accredited program, and complete supervised clinical practicum or postgraduate professional experience.

Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists who meet the uniform requirements are permitted to obtain a privilege to practice, which is the legal authorization to practice in another compact member state. Compact member states retain control over scope of practice and licensure requirements.

The compact creates a shared interstate licensure data system which facilitates the application and granting of a privilege to practice. The data system also enhances public protection by ensuring that member states share investigative and disciplinary information with one another.

The ASLP Compact currently has 29 member states and is in the process of becoming operational through its compact commission. The compact commission inaugurally convened in January of 2022 and has since then developed bylaws, elected officers,



adopted a budget, and is in the process of developing the compact data system. Once the data system is operational, eligible practitioners may apply for a privilege to practice.

Wisconsin is currently a member of five licensure compacts, including the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, Nurse Licensure Compact, Occupational Therapy Compact, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and Physical Therapy Compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver informational testimony for the committee. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the ASLP Compact or interstate compact policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sims', is positioned below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Carl Sims  
Deputy Program Director  
National Center for Interstate Compacts  
The Council of State Governments





## WISCONSIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY and AUDIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

563 Carter Court, Suite B | Kimberly, WI 54136 | 920-560-5642 | 920-882-3655 FAX

Date: September 27, 2023  
To: Senate Committee on Health  
From: Cindy Lund, PhD, CCC-SLP, C/NDT  
Re: Support for Senate Bill 197

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Chairwoman Cabral-Guevara and committee members thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 197 which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

My name is Cindy Lund and I am here today testifying on behalf of the Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association (WSHA). I was born and raised in Wisconsin and have been a practicing Speech-Language Pathologist for almost 25 years. I hold a PhD in Health Sciences from Northern Illinois University. My clinical experience includes pediatric and adult inpatient, NICU, outpatient, rehab, birth to three, and private practice. I am currently employed by Concordia University Wisconsin and a founding member of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. In my role as an Associate Professor at Concordia University, I teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels and founded the Pediatric Feeding Disorder Clinic on campus. My research focus is infant/pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders, working to improve the lives of children and families with Pediatric Feeding Disorder.

I have been heavily involved in WSHA for many years, including serving the past 4 years as the Secretary/Treasurer on the executive board. Currently, I am the President-Elect for WSHA and will transition to the role of President in July 2024.

WSHA is in strong support of adoption of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. We were pleased to see unanimous, bipartisan support for the compact by the Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses, the Joint Legislative Council and most recently the Assembly Committee on Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care.

Wisconsin has already passed several licensure compacts including for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. Like other compacts, the ASLP-IC will allow professionals to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. The compact is voluntary for those practicing or desiring to practice in Wisconsin and allows states to retain the ability to regulate practice in their state.

The ASLP-IC is beneficial in many ways ranging from enhancing the workforce to limiting bureaucratic hurdles for healthcare professionals, something we desperately need as healthcare workforce shortages are becoming more dire. Most importantly it will increase access to care for patients, particularly in underserved and rural communities.

For the compact to begin operations, a minimum threshold of ten states must pass legislation to activate the compact. That milestone was reached last year. Passage of SB 197 will pave the way for practitioners in Wisconsin to enjoy the same benefits of the 27 other ASLP-IC member states.

Thank you for your time today and I'm available for any questions.