



Assistance, Awareness & Advocacy in Communication Sciences & Disorders

To: House Committee on Transportation  
From: Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association  
Re: HB 4364, 4365, and 4366

Chairman O'Malley and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

My name is Kelli Pierce, and I am a licensed speech-language pathologist and Vice President for Advocacy for the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA). My comments in this statement are with regard to the changes proposed in House Bills 4364, 4365, and 4366. MSHA **supports** this legislation. We appreciate the addition in Section 4a of HB 4364 and Section 13a of HB 4365 of speech-language pathologists as a profession to certify the presence of a communication disorder for the purpose of designation with the Secretary of State. As speech-language pathologists licensed within the State of Michigan, our scope of practice includes the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of a variety of communication disorders; therefore, it is well within our professional practice and state license to certify the presence of a communication disorder and attest to the nature of said communication disorder to the Secretary of State. Similarly, audiologists licensed in the State of Michigan evaluate and diagnose hearing loss and should be an included profession in these bills. The purpose behind these bills is the protection of and advocacy for vulnerable populations; as such, it is imperative that the appropriate professions be included in these efforts, and these bills do just that.

MSHA has additional concerns about these bills regarding some of the terminology used and restricted list of communication disorders outlined in the existing law that the bills seek to change; however, in the interest of time and brevity, our primary concern is ensuring that the professionals who work with individuals with communication disorders are included in the legislative efforts. We are hopeful that by creating this pathway, we can address these concerns in the future.

I would like to sincerely thank you for the efforts that were made to allow for the inclusion of our professions in HB 4364 – 4366, and urge the committee to support passage of the bills.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Kelli Pierce M.A., CCC-SLP  
Vice President for Advocacy  
Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association

*Mission Statement: The Mission of the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) is to provide professional support and development, public awareness, and advocacy for professionals in communication sciences and disorders and the individuals they serve.*