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February 10, 2020

Representative Walker Thomas
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 329C
Frankfort, KY 40601

Representative Tina Bojanowski
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 451E
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: American Academy of Audiology Support for H.B. 218

Dear Representative Thomas and Representative Bojanowski:

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology, I write to express our support for H.B. 218, a bill that would advance the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact that will enable states to meet increasing demands for audiology and speech-language pathology services while maintaining appropriate oversight necessary for consumer protection. Consumers can benefit from access to services achieved through a process that allows qualified providers to obtain licensing quickly upon relocation or across multiple states.

The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by and for audiologists. Representing the interests of approximately 14,000 audiologists nationwide, the Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

The ASLP-IC is an innovative approach that offers state-licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists the flexibility needed in today's healthcare marketplace. It will help promote continuity of care for patients who travel or relocate and it also facilitates job mobility for providers which especially impacts our military families. States maintain regulatory authority and will continue to regulate the actual practice of audiology and speech-language-pathology while also maintain their individual scopes of practice.

The Academy supports the adoption of the ASLP-IC in Kentucky-- and in all states-- in order to facilitate expanded patient access to these critical services while enhancing consumer protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Palmer".

Catherine V. Palmer, PhD
President