



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

November 9, 2020

Mr. Chris Sykes
Medical Services Board Coordinator
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
303 East 17th Avenue, 11th Floor
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Comments on Regulating Speech-Language Pathology Assistants with Amendments

Dear Mr. Sykes:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support the regulation of speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) practicing within their scope of practice with amendments.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 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 4,000 ASHA members reside in Colorado.¹

Section 8.200.2.D.d of the proposed regulations states:

“Speech language pathology assistants are authorized to provide services within their scope of practice only under the Direct Supervision of a licensed speech language pathologist who has the authority to supervise them, in accordance with Colorado Department of Regulatory Agency rules.”

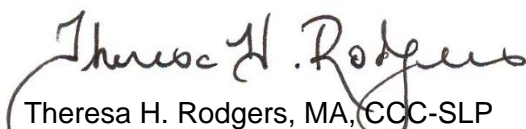
ASHA recommends amending this language to state:

“...under the Direct Supervision of an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist who is licensed and has the authority to supervise them, in accordance with Colorado Department of Regulatory Agency Rules.”

These amendments will enable an SLPA to qualify for ASHA’s Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certification Program.²

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA’s comments supporting the regulation of speech-language pathology assistants with amendments. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA’s director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,


Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Colorado [Quick Facts]*.
<https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/Colorado-State-Flyer.pdf>.

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *2020 Standards for ASHA Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Certification*. <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLPA-Certification-Standards/>.