

## Hawley, Michael E (DPL)

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**From:** Wilson, Barbara  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 04, 2015 2:53 PM  
**To:** Hawley, Michael E (DPL)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Stakeholder Outreach meeting Input; Speech Pathology Licensure Regulatory Review

Dear Michael,

I am responding with written feedback for the Board to consider in regard to the review of regulations mandated by Executive Order 562. As you may or may not recall, I have been involved in working toward professional licensure for speech-language pathologists during their supervised practice period (known by ASHA as the Clinical Fellowship year). This is an issue that can be adequately addressed during the regulatory review and addresses several of the mandates communicated in the executive order.

Throughout Governor Baker's order, there is reference to revising regulations to encourage business growth, creation of jobs and to eliminate competitive disadvantages faced by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To support my statement, I submit the following points:

- We are only one of 8 states left that does not license practitioners in their Clinical Fellowship year.
- We have 6 graduate programs of speech-language pathology in the state, but new graduates who want to work in a health care setting need to leave the state to get a job because they cannot be legally hired in Massachusetts. Third party payers will not allow their members to be seen by an "unlicensed" practitioner, regardless of whether ASHA's supervision requirements have been met.
- This leaves Massachusetts at a competitive disadvantage in terms of recruiting qualified practitioners at the beginnings of their careers when mentoring is the most productive and when the salary requirements are the lowest.
- Health care settings struggle to find qualified practitioners to fill their jobs and we are left with the illusion of scarcity of clinicians. Once a health care practitioner settles in another state, they are less likely to pull up their roots and return.
- The inability to hire new graduate clinicians and the illusion of scarcity combined, result in an overall increase in the cost of health care to residents of the Commonwealth.

Both the form and the spirit of Governor Baker's Executive Order will be supported by insertion of language to license speech-language pathologists when they have met all ASHA requirements and are *in the process of* completing their supervised practice period/clinical fellowship period and ensuring that third party payers must treat that license like any other.

I appreciate your consideration and presentation of my input to the Board during their meeting tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Barbara M Wilson Arboleda, MS CCC-SLP