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To whom it may concern,

The Speech Language Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) is providing support for the licensure of SLP Assistants in the state of Virginia, as we are currently one of only 14 states without regulation. The recommended amendments to the code suggest that SLP-A's be required to register; however, it is our desire to require a license specific to SLP Assistants.

Please accept this letter in support for HB 764 to amend the *Code of Virginia* by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-2605, relating to assistant speech-language pathologists with a change to reflect "qualifications for licensure" (see below).

That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 12 54.1-2605 as follows: 54.1-2605. Practice of assistant speech-language pathologists. *A person who has met (i) the educational and training requirements prescribed by the Board and (ii) any other qualifications for ~~registration~~ licensure as prescribed in regulations promulgated by the Board may practice as an assistant speech-language pathologist. An assistant speech-language pathologist may perform duties not otherwise restricted to the practice of a speech-language pathologist under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.*

Please note that our concern with the current regulations is that there are no requirements for the "unlicensed assistant." It is SHAV's intention to work closely with the Board to develop suggested requirements for licensure of the Speech Language Pathology Assistant.

The *Regulations Governing the Practice of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology* currently state the following:

18VAC30-20-240. Supervisory responsibilities; supervision of unlicensed assistants.

A. A licensed audiologist and speech-language pathologist shall provide documented supervision to unlicensed assistants, shall be held fully responsible for their performance and activities, and shall ensure that they perform only those activities

which do not constitute the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology and which are commensurate with their level of training.

B. The identity of the unlicensed assistant shall be disclosed to the client prior to treatment and shall be made a part of the client's file

SHAV remains focused on the integrity of services provided by qualified professionals to patrons in the state of Virginia. It is our desire to remain closely aligned with the recommendations provided by the American Speech Language Hearing Association.

Please feel free to contact SHAV with any additional questions or concerns at shavoffice@shav.org or myself at carrie.cilento@chkd.org

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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