

Leading Perspective: Thoughts from the Chair



Claire Covert-ByBee
Chair
Nebraska

As we continue on the journey to operationalization of the ASLP-IC, I've been thinking a lot about what it means to have a solid foundation—both in our work and in how we show up for each other as professionals.

Foundations aren't flashy. They're not the loudest or most visible part of what we do. But they're everything. They're the reason we're able to build something lasting—something that makes a real difference for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and the clients we serve across state lines.

The Compact itself is built on a strong foundation: the idea that we can improve access to care by working *together*. It's about making it easier for qualified professionals to do their jobs, no matter which state they're in, while still providing public protection. And none of that is possible without trust, transparency, and a shared commitment to collaboration. That's our foundation.

We've seen huge progress—from more states joining the Compact, to preparing for the launch of our data system. None of this happened overnight. It's taken a lot of groundwork, a lot of input from folks like you, and a lot of behind-the-scenes effort to get us to this point. But that's what makes this foundation strong—it's been built with intention, care, and a lot of heart.

Looking ahead, we're moving into an exciting new phase—where this foundation supports real, everyday practice. Where providers will feel the impact of this work in a tangible way. It's not just an idea anymore—it's becoming a reality.

Thanks to each of you who has helped lay these bricks, piece by piece. Your input, your questions, your dedication—it all matters. And it all helps us keep building something that works for the people who rely on us most.

Let's keep going—together.

Claire Covert-ByBee

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Guiding Principals: Notes from the Executive Director

Keith Buckhout, Interim Executive Director

I have good news and bad news. I'll start with the good news.

After an extensive and thorough search, the Executive Committee is thrilled to announce Dr. Lesley Edwards-Gaither, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, as the new Director of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) Commission. Lesley brings decades of leadership experience in speech-language pathology and audiology as an advocate, educator, government relations professional and practitioner. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Edwards-Gaither to ASLP-IC Commission and give her your full support.

Now for the bad news: you can't get rid of me that easily. As Lesley transitions into the Director role, and as we work to begin issuing privileges to practice, I will be staying on to assist with administrative work. I'll still be sending out committee and commission meeting notices, meeting agendas and sharing other important updates. This will allow Lesley to focus on assisting states directly with onboarding to the CompactConnect data system and helping states activate the compact.

Thanks for everyone's patience and cooperation throughout the hiring and onboarding process. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

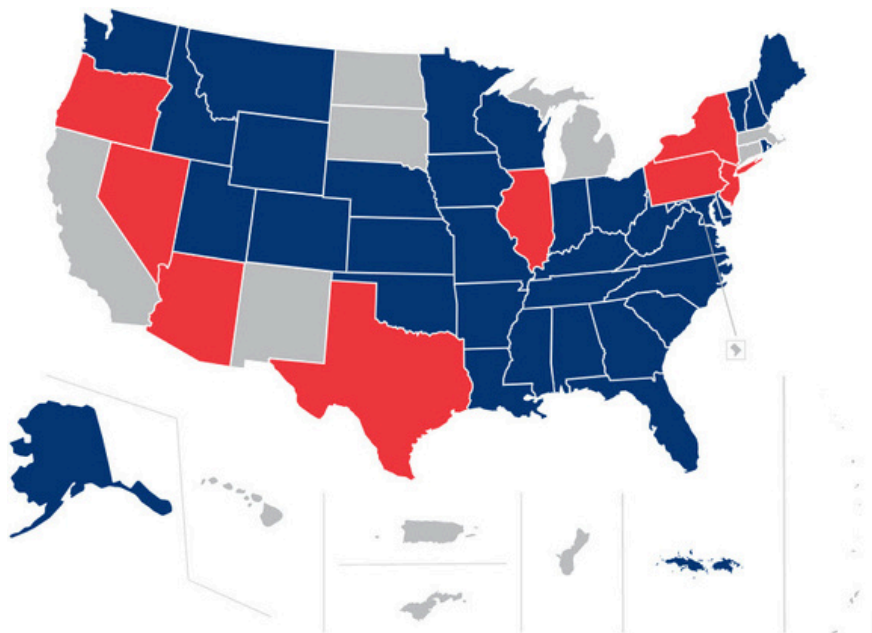
Updates from the States

Susan Adams, Legislative Liaison

Nine states (Arizona, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas) introduced legislation to adopt the ASLP-IC in the 2025 legislative sessions.

At the time of this newsletter, Arizona's legislation has passed and awaits the Governor's signature. New Mexico's legislation failed to pass prior to the legislatures adjournment for the year. Oregon's legislation is effectively dead, despite intense multi-year legislative efforts by a number of occupational interstate compacts.

ASHA has shared a take action to reach out to your state legislators to adopt the ASLP-IC at: <https://ashaa.quorum.us/campaign/104701/>.



Federal Update: SHARE Act

Grant Minnix, Council of State Governments

The States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act has been introduced in both the United States Senate and House. H.R. 2332 is sponsored by Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS-1) and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2). S. 1101 is sponsored by Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN). The SHARE Act would authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct criminal background checks for licensure purposes pursuant to authorization to practice through an interstate compact. This legislation is crucial to the operationalization of the ASLP-IC and other licensure compacts for healthcare professions as numerous states have faced issues obtaining authorization from the FBI to conduct criminal background checks for compact licensure. The ASLP-IC, ASHA, and numerous other compact commissions, professional associations, and board organizations stand in support of the SHARE Act to promote the operationalization of licensure compacts and further enhance licensure portability for healthcare professionals across the country.

ASHA has shared a take action to reach out to your federal legislators to adopt the SHARE Act at: <https://ashaa.quorum.us/campaign/shareact/>



CompactConnect

CompactConnect is a collaborative, open-source project to develop a licensure compact data system. For an occupational licensure compact to operationalize, a data system must first be established. Compact data systems enable practitioners to apply for multi-state practice and for states to share necessary information about licensees.

To realize efficiencies, a shared use system is in development through the partnership of The Council of State Governments (CSG) and the three occupational licensure compact commissions of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Counseling, and Occupational Therapy Compacts. Pilot states are currently being onboarded to the system.

If you are ready to onboard, please view the onboarding checklist at: <http://bit.ly/4jZobM0> and contact us at: director@aslpcompact.com.

The project is supported by the American Counseling Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Department of Defense, National Board for Certified Counselors, and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

Please visit www.compactconnect.org for more information about this joint initiative and to view demo videos.



Legal Corner

Nahale Kalfas, General Counsel

As we are rapidly approaching the operationalization phase of our work as a compact commission, there are many details that have consumed the time of our executive committee, support staff and delegates. Regarding the commission's data system, CompactConnect, we continue to meet with member states to ensure a smooth onboarding process and have developed the attestations and disclaimers required for legal compliance. Our partnership with the Counseling and Occupational Therapy Compact Commissions in the development of the data system continues to pay dividends as we share costs and efficiencies. This tri-partite partnership is a pioneer in the field of interstate compacts. We have collectively agreed on steps to protect our data system trademark and creation of an open-source license for current and future users of CompactConnect.

Regarding member state compliance, each member state should already have or be working toward an FBI criminal background check to become legally compliant to issue and accept compact privileges to practice. The Rules Committee is investigating potential rule development that could assist member state boards in substantially complying with criminal background checks in the event they are denied an Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) number by their respective State Information Bureaus. Updates regarding rule development will be emailed to delegates and member state administrators, as well as posted to the ASLP-ICC website. Member states should also have set or be setting a fee which out of state privilege to practice applicants will pay to hold a privilege to practice in their state.

It remains my honor to represent the ASLP-IC Commission and I am grateful and proud of the work we continue to do together. Onward!

News from the Finance Committee

Brenda Fairfax, Chair

The last several months have seen the Finance Committee drafting the Commission budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The proposed budget in the amount of \$166,160 includes Personnel (Executive Director), Office Operating Expenses, IT Expenses, Commission Expenses, and the Annual Commission Meeting. The funds for this budget will come from our funders, ASHA (79%), AAA (18%) and ADA (3%). This budget does not include ASHA's contribution for the development of Compact Connect, the compact data system shared by the ASLP compact, the occupational therapy compact and the counseling compact.

The Finance Committee recommended a \$50 commission fee for each privilege to practice. It is anticipated that once the compact is fully operational and member states are issuing privileges to practice, this fee will enable the compact will become fully self-sufficient.

The Finance Committee meets on an as needed basis. You can find scheduled meetings on the Commission website at: <https://aslpcompact.com/meetings2/finance-committee-meetings/>



News from the Rules Committee

Gregg Thornton, Chair

Since our last newsletter, the Committee has finalized a proposed rule for the Commission's Administrative Fee, which is set at fifty dollars (\$50.00). The rule will be posted on the Commission website for public comment. After the comment period, any public comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration when the final proposed rule is presented to the full Commission for approval by the member states. In addition to the proposed administrative fee, each member state will determine its "State Fee" that each state will charge to receive a privilege to practice in their state. The Committee drafted FAQs to address questions regarding the "State Fee" that member states will be charging.

The Committee is also working to amend the rule on criminal background checks to address circumstances in which some member states are unable to conduct FBI background checks. The Committee will be proposing changes that will address this situation.

The Committee meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Our meetings are open to the public to attend virtually. For more information about the committee agenda, meeting minutes, and to register to join future committee meetings, please visit the Commission's website at: <https://aslpcompact.com/meetings2/rules-committee-meetings/>

Save the Date

Special Full Commission Meeting

June 30, 2025 at 4:00 PM ET
Virtual

- Adopt 2025-2026 Budget
- Adopt Rulemakings

Annual Business Meeting

September 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM ET
Hybrid/Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

