**Lobbying Notes**

In New Hampshire, there are some individuals in the legislature who do not want any profession licensed and as a result, there are regular threats to the professionalism of our fields.  Part of NHSLHA’s mission is to maintain the highest quality professional standards of practice and accreditation for all levels of professionals in speech-language pathology and audiology.

To that end, an amendment was recently passed clarifying the use of the title of “Speech-Language Assistant” so that consumers and related professionals would know that anyone with that title has completed specified training.

Our lobbyist and NHSLHA work together to ensure that the statutes governing the professions represented by NHSLHA are drafted to ensure efficiency, clarity, and professionalism.

Specifically, our lobbyist

1.     Helps us with drafting and analysis of legislation, amendments and administrative rules affecting the practice of speech-language pathology to ensure that the interests of NHSLHA and its members are protected.

2.     Attends hearings on legislation that we have an interest in and provides a written report and well as weekly tracking reports on legislative activity and upcoming hearings.

3.     Advises us on submitting oral and written testimony at public legislative hearings and work sessions.

4.   Helps us with drafting and analysis of proposed rules before the NH Board of Speech-Language Pathology).

5.     Attends NH Board of Speech-Language Pathology meetings with a NHSLHA Board representative when new rules, laws or amendments are on the agenda.

6. Directs lobbying efforts towards members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) when administrative rules are being proposed.

7.     Directs lobbying efforts towards NH legislators to support proactive legislation, kill legislation that would negatively impact the speech-language pathology or audiology professions.

8.     Fosters relationships between the NHSLHA President and VP of Governmental Affairs and important legislators.

*Note: ASHA monitors federal legislation, but does not get involved at the state level. NHSLHA is the only state-wide organization that monitors NH laws and rules that affect how you practice.*