

1 **NYSAC 2023 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Health Care Needs**
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Allow Speech-**
6 **Language Pathologist Assistants and Aides to Practice via License,**
7 **Registration, or Certification in New York State’s Early Intervention**
8 **Program to Expand Capacity for Children in Need of Services**
9

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a
11 speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) is support personnel who, following
12 academic coursework, fieldwork, and on-the-job training, performs tasks that are
13 prescribed, directed, and supervised by a certified and/or licensed speech-language
14 pathologist; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, SLPAs may have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings including
17 schools, home health, clinics, private practice, and Early Intervention, as determined by
18 state laws and regulations; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, currently in New York State, Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) are
21 required to perform all evaluations and services for speech/language in the Early
22 Intervention Program (EIP); and

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24 **WHEREAS**, speech services are repeatedly the number one referred service for Early
25 Intervention across New York State; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, New York State is experiencing dire shortages of qualified professionals to
28 provide speech-language pathology and audiology services to children with
29 developmental delays and disabilities in the EIP; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, children in the EIP are going unserved or underserved due to the shortage
32 of SLPs available to provide services; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, according to a survey of 48 county health departments, over 2,000
35 children were waiting for speech services in the summer of 2022; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, at least 40 other states allow SLPAs to practice via license, registration, or
38 certification; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, Occupational Therapist Assistants (OTAs) have an existing structure to
41 provide services under a licensed OT in NYS, as well as a billing structure in place; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, shifting service delivery for some of the most common speech issues to
44 qualified assistants would result in a more effective use of limited SLPs by allowing SLPs
45 to work at the top of their license and focus on services that only they are qualified to
46 provide, such as feeding services and other services for high needs children;

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2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
3 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to pass
4 legislation that will allow SLPAs to practice via license, registration, or certification in
5 the EIP when working under supervision and oversight of a licensed SLP to help expand
6 speech service availability for children with developmental delays and disabilities in
7 New York State; and
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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Department of Health be tasked
10 with identifying any barriers to EIP services provided by SLPAs working under a plan of
11 supervision being reimbursed by Medicaid and move forward with actions to ensure
12 such services are Medicaid reimbursable; and
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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
15 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
18 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
19 necessary and proper.