

2024 A Year in Review

NJSHA's legislative committee along with NJSHA's lobbyists, Lynn Nowak and Jacy Lance, review, monitor and advocate on legislation, regulations, policies and challenges impacting Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs and SLSs) and Audiologists and those we serve.

Some topics from 2024- and first two months of 2025

- **Telepractice in Schools:** provided testimony to the New Jersey State Board of Education to ensure they addressed specific issues and implemented guardrails for virtual therapy
- Worked with the Law Review Commission to secure their agreement to review **NJ Special Education Statutes** that are out of sync with DOE regulations and remove outdated terms
- **Pay Parity for Telehealth:** testified and lobbied to ensure virtual speech language & audiology services are covered by insurance companies at the same rate as when provided in offices
- **Stuttering Therapy:** actively supporting legislation that would require insurance companies in New Jersey to cover therapy for stuttering, both habilitative and rehabilitative
- Worked with legislators to draft and advance legislation for audiologists in NJ in response to the new **Over the Counter Hearing Aid Rules** on the federal level
- Secure appointments of NJSHA-recommended members to the **HADEC & Aud-SLP Committee**
- **Protecting and Improving SLS Benefits:** tax deductions for school supplies, being included in other benefits for teachers, ensuring SLS on CST as appropriate, etc.
- **Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES):** working to improve patient access
- Participated in developing New Jersey's new **Literacy Laws** and secured a NJSHA member on the DOE Working Group on Literacy and Learning Loss
- Contributed to / served on the team of organizations that created the multi-agency **Guidance Document for Law Enforcement** to provide education regarding communication disorders culminating in NJSHA president being invited to speak at the inaugural launch event

And much more!! For more detailed information visit njsha.org

NJSHA will be moving to quarterly reporting, to read the updates in further detail visit www.NJSHA.org.