



NJSHA 2022 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY SUCCESSSES

NJSHA's Legislative Committee, chaired by immediate past-president Robynne Kratchman, works hand-in-hand with our governmental affairs consultants, **Lynn Nowak** and **Jacy Lance** at Porzio Governmental Affairs. In 2022, NJSHA tracked 230 bills introduced and moving through the legislative process. We have testified over a dozen times in front of various legislative committees on issues of importance to NJSHA, and have had many more conversations with bill sponsors and staff to educate decisionmakers about proposals that impact speech-language pathologists and audiologists. For example, we have been supportive of numerous bills that eliminate barriers and reduce red tape for military spouses – even though those bills have not yet become law, we have supported and worked to advance them throughout the legislative process. We also continue to recommend NJSHA members for appointments to various boards and committee positions as appropriate. Below is a brief outline of successes that NJSHA achieved in the past year.

BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH RECOGNITION

- NJ State Board of Education: On **April 6, 2022**, members of the State Board of Education approved a resolution designating May as Better Hearing and Speech Month. The Resolution was presented during a virtual State Board of Education meeting. NJSHA President Kathy Palatucci accepted the resolution and made a few remarks to thank the Board for the recognition.
- Senate/Assembly Joint Legislative Resolution: We also secured a Joint Legislative Resolution from the NJ State Senate and General Assembly which was displayed at Convention.

PERFORMANCE BASED ASSESSMENTS

- S896 would prohibit the State Board of Education from requiring the completion of a performance-based assessment as a condition of eligibility for a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) or a Certificate of Eligibility (CE).
- The legislation was intended to eliminate the edTPA but was not specific in clarifying precisely which performance-based assessment(s) would be prohibited.
- There was also no distinction between *instructional* certificates and *educational services* certificates.
- SAC requested the addition of a clarifying amendment specifying that the provisions of the bill **only apply** to candidates pursuing instructional certificates, thus removing speech professionals from the legislation and keeping their certification requirements unchanged.
- The bill was amended per NJSHA's request, and the law was signed on **December 16, 2022**.
- **PL 2022, c.129**

POLICE TRAINING ON INTERACTING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- S761 would permit MVC to place a notation on a driver's license or identification card of the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder or communication disorder.
- One provision of the bill requires the development and distribution of written guidance to assist law enforcement officers in effectively communicating with a person who has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or communication disorder.
- The legislation requires the Commissioner of Human Services, the Attorney General and the Superintendent of the Division of State Police within the Department of Law and Public Safety to work together

with at least one organization that advocates on behalf of persons who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or communication disorder.

- On October 31, 2022, NJSHA Legislative Affairs Chair Robynne Kratchman and President-Elect Donna Spillman-Kennedy went to Trenton to testify in support of this legislation, informing the Committee about the efforts NJSHA has been making in this space for the past three years, and advocating for NJSHA's selection as the "community organization" listed in the bill.
- The bill cleared the full Senate by a vote of 39-0.

AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 9 OF THE NJ ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- In August 2022, the New Jersey State Board of Education began the process of amending various sections of the NJ Administrative Code governing Professional Standards, Educator Preparation Programs, the State Board of Examiners & Certification and Professional Development.
- NJSHA identified various areas of interest in the proposed amendments, and SAC drafted and submitted written comments to the State Board of Education



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