

The Honorable Larry Bagley  
Chairman  
The House Committee on Health and Welfare  
BOX 94062 (900 North 3rd Street)  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Chairman Bagley,

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) and our nationwide employer member companies applaud your efforts to increase access to health care for patients in Louisiana by joining the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology interstate compact. ERIC supports the legislation since the compact will eliminate barriers to care for patients, and promote provider choice, as the country becomes more interconnected through technology. ERIC commends Louisiana's first steps in joining the interstate compact and urges prompt passage of SB 34 so all may benefit from the compact.

ERIC is a national advocacy organization that exclusively represents large employers that provide health, retirement, paid leave, and other benefits to their nationwide workforces. Our member companies are leaders in every sector of the economy, with stores, warehouses, factories, and operations in every state. ERIC member companies, like most large employers, offer health benefits to workers and their families. However, patients' access to care is often hampered by provider shortages due to geography and market conditions. Louisiana's participation in this compact will allow ERIC member companies to expand their health benefit offerings in the state, ensuring that patients will be able to see the providers they need in a timely manner. The interstate compact also reduces red tape for qualified providers by reducing barriers related to licensing. Permitting providers to practice in multiple states can help reduce provider shortages, improve market competition, and boost the quality and affordability of health care for patients throughout the state.

Thank you for considering our comments in support of SB 34. We know participating in the compact can help patients in your state get the care they need, when they need it. ERIC is standing by to help if you have any questions, or if we can be a resource in any way as the bill continues through the legislative process. Please contact me at [jgelfand@ERIC.org](mailto:jgelfand@ERIC.org) or 202-789-1400.

Thank you again for your support of telehealth access.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Gelfand". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "P".

James P. Gelfand  
Senior Vice President  
Health Policy