

Responses to Survey - Board of Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists Total responses: 17 (of which 1 out-of-state)

Highest Compliment	Ability to monitor on behalf of licensees - 10 Ability to streamline Continuing Ed - 1 Ability to keep profession from criticism because of bad actors - 3 None - 1 Other: - I think the Board does its best to ensure both the citizens and professionals are doing the right thing			
Biggest Complaint	Licensing fees too high - 3 Lack of Information - 2 Board's response to unlicensed practice - 2 Licensing renewal timelines too rigid - 2 Regulations too strict - None - 6 Other:-- the amount of time it takes to make a decision related to practice -- lack of oversight of unlicensed practice -- Forms for licensing and renewal are confusing; information could be presented more clearly.			
<p>Other reasons the board is important: - It includes those areas over which we have /should have intervention expertise and excludes those areas that may be a bit 'iffy'. Primarily excludes our bad actors from making claims they can't/shouldn't substantiate. -- Primarily provides assurance that those persons hired to perform speech/language therapy have the appropriate credentials and qualifications. -- I appreciate that the licensing board and the State of Montana set high standards for SLP's and AUD near the beginning of my career. As a result I believe that my license is more valuable to me as a practitioner and to my employer and clients. It is necessary that the board be in place and populated at least in part with individuals from within our profession. This job can be very difficult and overwhelming. The board has helped to ensure that those of us practicing have the skills to meet the needs of our clientele. -- Responsible for the communication needs of patients. -- Ability to protect consumers and ensure qualified practitioners are providing services.</p>				
Public Health - 1	Public Welfare - 6	Public Safety -	None of these - 3	All or combination - 7
Scope of Practice:	Too Narrow - 1	Too Broad - 1		Just Right - 15
<p>Problems with own or other professions' scope of practice - None with own profession = 15 Yes. Board of Occupational Therapy Practice - 1 Yes - Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers 1</p> <p>-- Comment regarding "just right" scope -- It includes those areas over which we have /should have intervention expertise and excludes those areas that may be a bit 'iffy'. Primarily excludes our bad actors from making claims they can't/shouldn't substantiate. -- Scope of practice is continuing to expand and the board is designed to allow a consensus for regulating these important changes. Opportunities to have discussion about telepractice, requirement for ASHA membership to maintain MT license. Some of the concerns for Audiologists are very different from the clinical practices of speech and language pathologists. -- Now that hearing aid dispensing is included in the audiology scope of practice and separate licensure is no longer required I believe that it is "just right". -- It covers the practices that are expected and traditionally offered by speech-pathologists. I believe audiologists may have other opinions, however, in that there are challenges from medical practitioners, as well as conflicts with hearing aid dealers.</p> <p>-- Comments regarding too broad a scope:</p> <p>-- Comments regarding too narrow a scope: -- I believe in this state, with the lack of professionals and the distances having to be traveled, the use of telepractice should be enacted to better meet the needs of the people of Montana. Furthermore, those providing this service need to not only be licensed to practice in MT but need to live in MT.</p>				

What laws/regulations have caused the most problems? None = 1

The inclusion of ABA related services for serving children with Autism (33-22-515, MCA) -- Hours of direct supervision of speech pathology/audiology aides. -- The number of CEUs required for renewal (40 CEUs every 2 years) is too high, especially for a rural state. This number is higher than even our national professional organization (ASHA) requires (30 CEUs every 3 years). I also would like to see a lower cost for licensure. I realize that the CEU provision is mandated by the legislature...not the Board of SLP/Aud. -- No laws about my profession, but legislation limiting consumers access to the profession through cuts in social services and Medicaid has caused problems. -- No regulation, but keeping up with changes in rules and regulations. -- The language in the law identifying ABA (applied behavior analysis) services for children with Autism. -- Not requiring audiologists to have hearing aid dispensing license created issues with being a Medicaid provider and fitting Medicaid patients with hearing aids without a dispensing license. Regardless, not requiring audiologists to have a dispensing license was a necessary and good change.

Consumer complaint filed?

No = 17

Nonlicensee comments

Saying Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiologists:
Necessary for Public Health - 183, Public Safety - 110, Public Welfare - 109. Many responders marked all or a combination.