

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-013

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CONDUCT AN INTERIM  
4 STUDY REGARDING THE FACTORS, COSTS, AND OUTCOMES RELATED TO THE  
5 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN  
6 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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8 WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists, as defined by the American  
9 Speech-Language-Hearing Association, are professionals who hold the American  
10 Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence in  
11 Speech-Language Pathology, which requires a master's, doctoral, or other  
12 recognized post-baccalaureate degree; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists must complete a period of  
15 supervised postgraduate professional work experience and pass a rigorous  
16 national examination as described in the American Speech-Language-Hearing  
17 Association certification standards, demonstrate continued professional  
18 development as mandated for the maintenance of the Clinical Competence in  
19 Speech-Language Pathology, and hold other required credentials, such as state  
20 licensures, teaching certifications, and specialty certifications; and

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22 WHEREAS, the scope of practice in speech-language pathology covers  
23 several diverse domains, including without limitation issues related to:

- 24 (1) Speech intelligibility;
- 25 (2) Stuttering;
- 26 (3) Voice and resonance; and
- 27 (4) Receptive and expressive language, which includes:
- 28 (A) Literacy and written language;
- 29 (B) Hearing screening and auditory skills development;
- 30 (C) Swallowing;
- 31 (D) Cognitive aspects of communication;
- 32 (E) Social communication; and
- 33 (F) Alternative communication modalities;
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1           WHEREAS services for these domains using service delivery models  
2 include collaboration, counseling, prevention and wellness, screening,  
3 assessment, treatment, technology, population and systems; and  
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5           WHEREAS, as of summer 2019, there are five hundred sixty-eight (568)  
6 speech-language pathologists who are certified as both speech-language  
7 pathologists and teachers working in public schools; and  
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9           WHEREAS, Medicaid funds generated by speech-language pathologists could  
10 be utilized to fund budgets to reimburse speech-language pathologists for  
11 gaining the speech-language pathologist licensure that is required to bill  
12 Medicaid or to recognize the contribution of speech-language pathologists to  
13 public schools by funding a stipend commensurate with stipends received by  
14 public school teachers who have received National Board Certifications and  
15 certified speech-language pathologists who meet certain teaching-related  
16 criteria, as described in § 6-17-413,  
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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE NINETY-SECOND  
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22           THAT the House Committee on Education study factors related to the  
23 recruitment and retention of speech-language pathologists in public schools,  
24 the positive role of highly qualified speech-language pathologists in public  
25 schools related to student development and school safety, the costs  
26 associated with attaining national certifications by speech-language  
27 pathologists, and the effect Medicaid funding billed by licensed speech-  
28 language pathologists both within public schools and those provided by  
29 contracted third-party vendors has on the budgets of public school districts  
30 in Arkansas.  
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32 Respectfully submitted,  
33

34 Representative Janna Della Rosa

35 District 90

36 Prepared by: TNL/TNL