



1925-2025
Legacy. Impact. Possibilities.

September 18, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Jen Kiggans
U.S. House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kiggans and Suozzi:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5145, the Bipartisan Premium Tax Credit Extension Act.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. SLPs identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive-communication disorders.

Many ASHA members provide essential health care services to individuals who have relied on the enhanced premium tax credit established through the Affordable Care Act to make their monthly health insurance premiums more affordable. The pending expiration of this assistance at the end of this year would jeopardize patient coverage and access to these services, resulting in poorer health outcomes and higher taxpayer costs because of delayed or denied care.

We are pleased to support this bipartisan legislation, which would extend the premium tax credit through 2026. This tax credit plays a critical role in expanding access to affordable health coverage for millions of Americans, including those with hearing, balance, speech, language, swallowing, and cognition disorders who rely on diagnostic and treatment services provided by audiologists and SLPs. The bill will help prevent drastic and unaffordable premium increases, protect continuity of care, and support vulnerable populations—including children and seniors—who benefit from medically necessary services provided by ASHA members.

However, ASHA opposes any proposals that would cut Medicare, Medicaid, or public health programs to finance the extension of a premium tax credit. These programs are foundational to the health and well-being of the patients that audiologists and SLPs serve, especially following significant funding reductions and changes to these programs enacted as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public Law 119-21).

Thank you again for your leadership in advancing bipartisan solutions to improve health care affordability. We look forward to working with you to ensure this legislation passes the

House of Representatives without jeopardizing other key components of our nation's health care safety net.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Krantz, ASHA's director of federal affairs for health care, at jkrantz@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. B. Mayfield-Clarke".

A. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP
2025 ASHA President