

TAKING ACTION: HOW TO ADVOCATE AND WHY IT MATTERS



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

Pennsylvania
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Introductory Level

.05 ASHA CEUs

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REP. BRANDON MARKOSEK**

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the legislative change afforded by Pennsylvania's HB 2268 and articulate why mandating insurance coverage for stuttering treatment is significant for children and families.
- Analyze the advocacy process at the state-level for speech-language pathology services, including key actors, strategies, challenges, and enablers
- Evaluate the impact of policy on access to care, service delivery models, and professional practice in speech-language pathology (with an emphasis on stuttering treatment).



Course Abstract

Effective advocacy at the state level plays a critical role in shaping policy that directly impacts the scope and accessibility of services provided by speech-language pathologists. This presentation explores the importance of state advocacy in the field of speech-language pathology, with a focus on recent landmark legislation: House Bill 2268 (Act No. 104 of 2024) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The bill amends the Insurance Company Law of 1921 to require private insurers to cover speech therapy for children who stutter — a pivotal change that removes barriers to essential habilitative and rehabilitative services. We will also discuss practical strategies for speech-language pathologists and allied professionals to engage in advocacy at the state level — from relationship-building with lawmakers to crafting effective testimony and mobilizing professional and community voices. Finally, the presentation will consider how such policy changes can serve as a model for broader efforts: expanding access, reducing health-disparities, and elevating the strategic role of speech-language pathology in healthcare systems.

Speaker Bios

Craig Coleman is the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services at PennWest University and President-Elect of PSHA. Craig is a Board-Certified Specialist in Stuttering, Cluttering, and Other Fluency Disorders and a Fellow of ASHA. Craig is a former two-term President of PSHA and former Vice President of Planning for ASHA.

Brandon Markosek is a politician serving as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the 25th district. Elected in November 2018, he assumed office on December 1, 2018, succeeding his father, Joseph Markosek.

Speaker Disclosures

Craig serves on the PSHA Executive Board.

Brandon is a member of the PA House of Representatives.