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August 31, 2023

Katie Merritt
Director of Policy and Planning
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Merritt:

Please accept this comment regarding the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan on behalf of the Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association (PSHA), representing over 1,000 Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists across the state of PA.

We appreciate the inclusion of rehabilitative services in the list of essential benefits. As rehabilitation professionals, we believe coverage of speech-language services related to communication and swallowing is important for increasing quality of life, decreasing readmittance and promoting more positive occupational and educational outcomes.

Please reach out to us at PSHA@psha.org with questions. Thank you for helping Pennsylvanians access high quality rehabilitative care.

Sincerely,

Dana Bitetti, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
PSHA President

Erin Buckwalter, MBA, MS, CCC-SLP
President-Elect, PSHA