

# RM&S

Communication.  
Teamwork.  
Results.

One Commerce Plaza  
Suite 402  
Albany, NY 12210  
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Fax: 518.465.0273  
Website: [lobbywr.com](http://lobbywr.com)

ROBERT REID | SHAUNEEN MCNALLY | MARCY SAVAGE | KELLY FORSTER | KAYLA BOGDANOWICZ | ELIZABETH REID

## **What We Do:**

We work with the NYSSLHA Board and Government Affairs (GA) Committee to represent the membership and enhance, safeguard, and advocate for the professions of Speech-Language-Pathology and Audiology and individuals served by members of these professions.

## **Activities include:**

- Professional lobbying, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, media efforts, and political action.

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## NYSSLHA and RMS Work Together to Achieve Goals

- RMS monitors the introduction of budget proposals, legislation, and rules and regulations and analyzes their potential impact on NYSSLHA members. We also work to introduce new legislation requested by NYSSLHA.
- RMS prepares a summary of each bill or regulation impacting members for review by the NYSSLHA President and GA Committee members.
- **The NYSSLHA President and GA Committee members are the subject matter experts** who translate how a proposal impacts the practice of Speech-Language-Pathology and Audiology and those served by these professions.
- RMS has extensive knowledge of the State Budget, legislative and regulatory process. **We develop and help NYSSLHA execute a strategy to achieve the desired outcome: defeat; amend; or pass a new proposal.**

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## Lobbying

- On a day to day basis, RMS is NYSSLHA's eyes and ears in Albany speaking to State legislators, the Governor's Office, staff, and policy makers in State agencies on legislation and rules and regulations impacting members.
- NYSSLHA's President and GA Committee members participate in Lobby Days at least twice a year to meet with policy makers on pending issues.
- RMS schedules all meetings and works with NYSSLHA to prepare memorandum in support or opposition to proposals. This year two virtual Lobby Days were scheduled.

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## Grassroots Advocacy

- NYSSLHA emails “Action Alerts” to members asking you to call or meet with your Senate and Assembly representatives to communicate support or opposition for State budget or legislative proposals.
- NYSSLHA provides “Talking Points” and a link to find your state legislators and contact information.
- Your participation in Grassroots Advocacy is critical. Legislators and staff want to know what is important to their constituents.

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## **Effective Grassroots Lobbying Strategies We Can't Do it Without You**

As licensed Speech-Language-Pathologists and Audiologists, you have the power to amplify key messages and information directly with your State representatives.

Legislators and staff respond to people that they know and trust. Work to develop a long-term relationship with your legislators and staff so that they:

- Recognize your name and respond to your phone calls and emails.
- Meet with you virtually or in person in their offices.
- Consider you a reliable and trusted resource on issues related to the practice of speech-language-pathology and audiology.
- Seek your opinion on legislation, rules, and regulations impacting the practice of speech-language-pathology and audiology.



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## 2022 State Budget Victories

**This year NYSSLHA and Reid, McNally & Savage were successful in working with the Legislature, State Department of Health (DOH), the Governor's Office, and others to:**

**Support** restoration of a 1.5% across the board Medicaid provider cut that was enacted in 2021.

**Support** a 1% increase in Medicaid rates for all providers for a multi-year investment of \$3.7 billion.

**Support** reimbursement parity for telehealth services by requiring health plans to reimburse providers for services delivered through telehealth on the same basis, and at the same rate, as services delivered in person.

**Oppose** moving oversight and regulation of speech-language-pathologists, audiologists and other professions from the New York State Education Department to the New York State Department of Health.

**Support** 11% increase in CPSE rates.



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## Pending Legislation

- NYSSLHA and Reid, McNally & Savage will work until the June 2 close of the 2022 State Legislative Session on a number of pending bills. A Lobby Day is planned for May 9, 2022.
- NYSSLHA is opposed to legislation (A6022 Paulin/A5597 Harkham)& (S3380 Bailey) to allow physicians to dispense hearing aids for a profit. We have worked for the past 18 years to defeat these bills.
- NYSSLHA is opposed to LEAD-K legislation (S1930 Jackson/A3866 Dickens) as currently written. It would create unnecessary and burdensome requirements that could interfere with the goals and purposes of the Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) authorized under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) for infants and children with disabilities.
- NYSSLHA is neutral on Licensure of Music Therapists (S21-A Kaplan/A5027-A Solages) which was recently amended to include ASHA language for protection of SLP scope of practice.