



April 30, 2021

Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
Via: OLIS Submission

Chair Prusak and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association, I am pleased to submit our testimony in support for SB 124. This important legislation will add a certified Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) to membership of the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. SLPAs are support professionals who assist Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) by performing routine day-to-day treatments and operational activities while SLPs focus on services that require ongoing clinical judgment. Currently the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology oversees regulation of SLPAs but does not have a representative from this diverse workforce. By adding the SLPA position to the Board there will be a better perspective of case discussions which will enable more effective regulation.

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA) is recognized as the official professional organization for Oregon Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). OSHA is dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to persons of all ages. In order to empower our members and facilitate advocacy, we promote best practice methods and ethical principles in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association is excited to support this opportunity for our SLPA members and for those that we serve.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Ebensteiner

Elizabeth Ebensteiner, M.S. CCC-SLP
VP of Legislative Affairs, Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association