



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Board of Examiners For
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
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SB 124 – Testimony by Erin K. Haag, Executive Director
Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (BSPA)
February 1, 2021

The Governor and Board have put forth this bill which will add one position to the Board for a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). SLPAs provide assistance to Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) in working with Oregon's students and patients. SLPAs in Oregon are more likely to speak Spanish and are a more diverse workforce. The Board believes adding an SLPA will enhance its case and policy discussions.

The purpose of the Board is to protect the public through licensure and regulation. The Board seeks to add an SLPA for purposes of adding perspective to case discussions that involve regulation of SLPAs. The Board directly serves the public and is not an advocacy group for the profession, which is very ably represented by the American Audiology Association, the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, the Oregon Audiology Association and the Oregon Speech-Language Hearing Association (OSHA). However, by effectively regulating those who provide audiology and speech, language and communication in the state, the Board is inherently protecting the integrity of the profession as well as protecting the public. OSHA suggested that it was time to add an SLPA to the Board, which agreed and prepared this legislative concept.

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