

Submitter: Natalie Griffin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB2618

As a school-based speech-language pathologist and the School-Based SLP Representative on the Oregon Speech and Hearing Association board, I heavily endorse this study bill. I live in a rural and underserved community with many students who qualify for services. It is simply impossible to provide quality services to each and every child on a caseload when one SLP is responsible to see over 70 students. Too often, SLPs are made to feel like they are providing "barely adequate" services because we are spread too thin. Currently in my county, we have had openings posted for SLPs for multiple years but have yet to fill a position. Perhaps with more legislation guiding workload limits, there would be more of an incentive to pay health professionals in schools more in order to attract more candidates or incentive to provide online courses or new programs to support new SLPs.