

Submitter: Mindy Mulligan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2618

I am an Occupational Therapist in Oregon, and I support this bill. Let's help Oregonians access the care and services of occupational therapy, so they can live their best lives! I've been an OT for 23 years: in Oregon for 7 years, 8 years in WA, and the rest in CA.

Since coming to Oregon, each year has become exponentially more difficult. As a school-based OT, we help children with fine motor, visual motor, and visual perceptual skills (impact reading and writing) and sensory processing (attention to task and emotional regulation). The AOTA recommends a caseload of 55. Currently mine is close to 80 students at 4 elementary and 2 high schools. Having caseloads this large makes it impossible to do a good job supporting any of them, let alone all of them. As a rehabilitation professional this is a daily major stressor, as I could provide so many benefits to children in the schools if I had the time. It is demoralizing, and I am considering leaving the profession because of it, because it is SO awful to know how much I could help if I had fewer students and schools. Please help us help to help the most vulnerable students in our schools! Mindy the OT