

To: House Committee on Education  
From: Anna Riggs, OTR/L  
RE: Support for HB 2959

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee–

My name is Anna Riggs and I am here today as an occupational therapist of seven years, and I am here to express my support for House Bill 2959.

As a trained health professional in school, I am both licensed and practice within school systems and settings that can sometimes be in conflict with one another. We believe our students deserve the best possible educational journey at every turn and we know that the barriers that provide for these conflicting rules to our licensure are systemic, so we know the solutions will take long-term commitment and dedication.

There have been moments as an OT working in early childhood special education during which I have been asked to work in areas outside of my scope of practice. In these instances, it has been challenging to work with administrators who do not fully understand the scope for OTs. This has put me in a challenging position; on one hand, I want to maintain those important professional boundaries but I also want to maintain a positive relationship with my administrator.

One clear concern expressed by members from all licensed professionals working in an education setting is the disconnect between requirements of licensure and the realities of practice in schools. That is why we need HB 2959, which will create a Task Force to examine the scope of practice for each type of licensed health professional in schools, establish criteria to help define when procedures are inconsistent with scope of practice, and provide recommendations for alignment.

Thank you for your time today and I encourage the committee to vote YES on HB 2959.

Anna Riggs  
Occupational Therapist  
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