

February 13, 2023

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

My name is Jessica and I am here today as a Doctor of Physical Therapy of three 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.

I currently work in Early Intervention (birth to 5) and am concerned that licensed professionals are being denied the ability to use our professional judgement when determining services for students. The Physical Therapy Licensing Board is aware of these concerns as well as concerns regarding encouragement to practice outside of our scope of practice under the guise of the "Primary Service Provider Model."

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. The majority of administrators making decisions at a programmatic level hold an educational license, yet these decisions directly affect and often dictate how services are provided by licensed professionals.

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. You are welcome to contact me for additional information.

Jessica Madding
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