

Submitter: Megann McGill  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: HB2618

I am a bilingual speech-language pathologist, an Assistant Professor at Portland State University, and the President-Elect of the Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association. The Oregon Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSHA) is recognized as the official professional organization for Oregon speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants by the Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). OSHA is a membership organization comprised of like-minded professionals dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to persons of all ages. In order to empower our members and facilitate advocacy, we promote best practice methods and ethical principles in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. As such, I am submitting written testimony in support of HB2618.

The most frequently reported issue to OSHA from educationally-based speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and audiologists is caseload size. Large caseloads are prevalent throughout Oregon and have significant impacts on both the clinician (SLP, SLPA, AuD) and the students to whom they are providing services. When overwhelmed with large, complex caseloads, clinicians are challenged to maintain high levels of service delivery while completing timely paperwork and providing education to teachers, parents, and administrators about a variety of communication disorders experienced by their students. Unfortunately, growing caseload sizes in schools across Oregon has led to fewer SLPs pursuing and/or continuing to work in educational settings. To support students in our schools as well as the Oregonians who serve these students with speech and hearing disorders, the Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association strongly endorses the passage of HB2618. Thank you for your consideration.