

Dear Chair Neron and members of the committee,

I am writing to testify in favor of HB 2596. As a licensed clinical psychologist, I worked for many years in school systems including Scappoose, Vernonia, and Gladstone as a consulting psychologist fulfilling many of the roles of a school psychologist. I regretted that I couldn't be more available to fill the many needs of these and other districts.

School psychologists fill a unique role, bringing skills in individual assessment, intervention planning, and consultation to our students. We need more of them in Oregon. By allowing those licensed in other states to come to Oregon we will help ease the large gap we have in workforce here.

Just thinking of a few of the things I was able to do makes me keenly aware of what is lost when we don't have a school psychologist in the schools:

- A sweet and quiet young woman had gone through her school career being identified as non-motivated and spoiled. An individual assessment uncovered significant learning disabilities that had never been addressed.
- By creating and running a class for students who were frequently in trouble in the school we were able to significantly reduce their trips to the assistant principal, increase their attendance rate and improve their grades.
- Consultation with teachers both about individual students and around classroom issues was frequently powerful in changing student behavior and also improving teacher satisfaction with their jobs.

Please make it possible for schools to hire people to perform these and many other important tasks by enacting the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact that will allow people in this needed profession to practice in Oregon.

Thank you for your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.  
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