



February 11, 2025

To Senate Committee on Health Care,

I unequivocally support the passage of SB 943.

SB 943 amends Oregon's laws related to the practice of audiology. As a pediatric audiologist, I am supporting one of our most vulnerable populations. These changes are necessary to modernize audiologist's scope to assure all children are able to access high-quality hearing care.

Deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) children served by soundSTART will benefit from these changes in the following ways:

- A child newly identified as deaf/hard of hearing can obtain additional testing to determine the source of their hearing differences without needing to establish care with a new specialist.
  - SB 943 allows audiologists to order imaging and other testing. This saves families time, money and worry by being able to get answers quickly to guide next steps.
- Audiologists who have been reported to the licensing board for sub-par practice will have a clear timeline and process for improving their skills or limiting their license.
  - SB 943 clarifies the board's role in investigating and resolving practice concerns.
- Audiology assistants will have clearer practice standards, which can free up audiologists for more complex appointments.
  - SB 943 specifies additional aspects of hearing care audiologists can provide.

I hope that you will support SB 943 so that Oregon can continue as a national forerunner for hearing healthcare. Deaf and hard-of-hearing children deserve the services needed to achieve their potential.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelby Atwill".

Shelby Atwill, AuD  
Pediatric + Cochlear Implant Audiologist