

Submitter: Kathryn Dillon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB943

Our daughter's audiologist is amazing! I am writing in support of SB 943 because it will improve workflow for audiologists which will in turn allow for better care for all of their patients and patient families.

As the hearing parent of a child born with hearing loss and other special needs, I had difficulty managing the whirlwind of appointments, referrals, paperwork, during my daughter's first several months of life. I hope Oregon can take all the steps possible to make this turbulent time more straightforward for families. For example, our path towards cochlear implants would have been more straightforward if our audiologist had been permitted to place diagnostic referrals on her own, while continuing to work with the ENT as needed, as outlined in this bill.

Our audiologist works tremendously hard to support her patients! She and her office team expertly navigate not only the actual care of the patients but all the behind the scenes support such as helping us interact with our insurance providers, and getting connected with all the other care our kids need. It is a shame that there is also this unnecessary burden with the lack of clarity around the scope of practice, and that they need to spend extra time and effort communicating with the licensing board.

SB 943 proposes straightforward, reasonable changes that would have a meaningful impact for many Oregon families. Anything we can do to improve workflow for audiologists will have a direct impact on their patients in allowing shorter wait times and better access to care. Please allow Oregon audiologists these simple provisions to be able to better do their work!