

Submitter: John Tracy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB2357

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of HB 2357. This bill would allow speech-language pathologists and audiologists to join a national compact and be licensed to practice in other states. I am a retired speech-language pathologist and have worked on staffing shortage issues in this state since the 1980s. There is an inadequate supply of speech-language pathologists at the national level to fill all open positions. This is especially true on the West Coast and in the rural areas of our state. Sometimes, a school district may have one or more positions open for as long as a year. This puts an undue burden on existing staff and robs children of their needed services.

This bill would allow speech-language pathologists and audiologists to join one compact and quickly be licensed in other states to practice. Many of these may be from adjoining states. However, therapists nationwide could also deliver the services needed via telehealth. This bill would give school districts and healthcare organizations more flexibility in filling unmet needs.

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