

Submitter: Amanda Schmitz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2357

I am writing in support of passing this bill because it will allow more Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) like myself to practice with fewer limitations. It will enable professionals to engage in work in counties near other states, and to support patients who move or travel to other areas. As a the spouse of a combat disabled Air Force veteran, I believe this would also have a significant positive impact on the military spouse community as it will reduce the barriers to employment for spouses who relocate across state lines due to military orders. In my husband's time in the military I had to leave multiple jobs and delay start dates for new employers as I waited for state licensure in each state to be processed. With the interstate compact, future military spouses will have options to continue to work with an employer in Oregon when moved out of state by engaging in tele-practice, or to move into a new role without having to wait for licensure to process. Given that the unemployment rate for military spouses is 5 times that of the general public, and those with advanced degrees and specialized training report the highest level of impact to their careers (DaLomba et.al., 2020) it is crucial that we enact policies that remove barriers to employment for this population. This will also directly benefit individuals needing speech therapy services in Oregon as it will open up options to be seen by providers in other areas such as specialists. This is particularly beneficial for Oregon residents in more rural communities who would have access to more providers through tele-practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

DaLomba, Elaina, Mary Jan Greer, Erika Cruz, Abigail Harris, Caitlyn King, Liberty Laurel, Tatiana McCuaig, and Remy Wilder. 2021. "The Experiences of Active Duty Military Spouses with Advanced Degrees in Maintaining and Advancing Their Careers." *Work* 68 (2): 387–98. <https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-203380>.