

Submitter: DeNell Gallagher
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 would allow more speech language pathologists (SLP) to practice in counties near other states. I live in Jackson County, which is a very rural area. If this bill passes, it would allow SLPs from neighboring states to easily practice in rural areas like mine and better serve the patients here. I am a pediatric feeding specialist and families travel up to 3 hours 1 way for my services. Some families travel from as far as Redding, CA and Coos Bay, OR. Many families in Northern California travel from Yreka area as well. When weather prevents travel over the mountain pass OR if the family is sick, I am not able to provide teletherapy services because they live over the California border. The commute for families in rural areas for specialty services is exhausting, especially for the infants I serve with pediatric feeding disorders. Thank you for considering support for expanding licensure and continuing to allow teletherapy services, but across state lines.

My company, Rogue Pediatric Therapies, LLC has been in business for over 10 years. Since COVID, my company has become over 80% teletherapy services due to the inability to hire in person staff in Southern Oregon. I have SLPs working in multiple states providing services for our local families. Those therapists must obtain an Oregon license as well as the state license for where they sit due to an invisible boundary.

Thank you for the support.

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