

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

As a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) in Oregon, I strongly support the Interstate SLP Compact because it removes unnecessary barriers to care while increasing professional flexibility and job opportunities for SLPs across the country.

First and foremost, mobility and flexibility are critical for today's workforce. I am currently considering a move to Seattle and exploring online positions, and the compact would make this transition significantly smoother. Instead of navigating a complicated and costly licensing process in each state, I could focus on providing high-quality care to my patients without delay.

Additionally, I am exploring alternative career options with higher earning potential, including teletherapy and multi-state job opportunities. The compact would open doors to remote positions in multiple states, allowing me to expand my reach as an SLP without being limited by state licensing requirements. This is especially important for supporting underserved populations who may not have access to specialized services in their local areas.

The compact also plays a crucial role in ensuring more equitable access to speech therapy services. Many families struggle to find qualified SLPs, especially for telehealth services, and the compact would allow clinicians like myself to provide care without bureaucratic delays.

Furthermore, I am working toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), and the compact would make it easier to secure qualifying jobs in different public service settings. Removing licensing barriers would ensure that SLPs can work in the settings where they are most needed, without administrative red tape standing in the way.

Finally, collaboration with other professionals is essential in my field. I frequently work in occupational therapy (OT) settings, co-treating with OTs and PTs to provide comprehensive care. The compact would allow for cross-state collaboration, particularly in teletherapy and multi-state clinic networks, enhancing patient outcomes and promoting best practices across disciplines.

The Interstate SLP Compact is a necessary step forward for the field of speech-language pathology. It reduces administrative burdens, increases professional opportunities, expands access to services, and allows SLPs to focus on what truly

matters: providing high-quality care to those who need it most. I urge policymakers to support and implement this compact for the benefit of clinicians and patients alike.

Sincerely,
Ryan DePauw
MS, CCC-SLP