

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

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I am the Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and work with patients dealing with voice, airway, and swallowing disorders. Many of these patients require coordinated care with a speech language pathologist. We primarily serve patients in the state of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Arizona, Utah, and northern California. Many of our patients reside in low-resource regions that are not equipped with the services that we are fortunate to provide. Our multidisciplinary program includes the vital support of speech language pathologists (SLP) who specialize in the care of patients with cancer, neurological disease, and many other disorders affecting speech, voice, and swallowing. Our SLP team has been invaluable in the care of thousands of patients, before, during, and after treatment providing improvement in quality of life. With our broad geographical catchment area, we are strongly in need of participation in the interstate compact so that our SLP colleagues can provide longitudinal care to patients, as needed. Virtual visits provide the ability to manage these patients across state lines and mitigates the need for expensive travel, housing, and time off work for both patient and accompanying family members. Thank you for your consideration. Many patients and their families will benefit from this compact.