

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

I am writing in support HB2375, which would pave the way for Oregon's participation in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). Participation includes many positive impacts for our professions and the patients that we serve, including patient's access to care, continuity of care that includes continued work with established and specialized providers, and the ability to meet significant staffing shortages across the state. This will significantly improve services to underserved and geographically isolated areas by increasing access to telehealth providers and the ability to fill professional shortages through travel staffing agencies.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists, like many allied healthcare professionals, hold both a board certification from our national professional association, the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), and a state license. State license regulations dictate that a patient must be located in the state where the professional is licensed at the time of service. This requires providers who offer telehealth services or those who serve patients in locations across state lines to hold multiple state licenses, which is time consuming and costly. For example, I live and work in Portland, OR and hold a national board certification and state licenses in both Oregon and Washington. I am required to pay licensing fees and dues to multiple professional organizations on different timelines and track their varying requirements for license renewal and continuing education.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and support of HB2357!

Deanna Britton, PhD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor, Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences, Portland State University (PSU)
Adjunct, Northwest Center for Voice & Swallowing (NWCVS), Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU)