



RE: HB2357 public testimony

Dear Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am a professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Oregon Health and Science University. I primarily specialize in pediatric otolaryngology where I provide specialized care in ear, nose, and throat disorders in children. I am also the Director of the Doernbecher Aerodigestive Program, a program that provides multidisciplinary care for airway and swallowing problems in medically complex children. As part of my practice, I work with audiologists and speech language pathologists on an almost daily basis, providing coordinated, multidisciplinary diagnostic and therapeutic care that is not widely available outside of large urban centers. These services are critical to the long-term health and well-being of our patients. Audiologists help to diagnose all forms of hearing loss and associated disorders that are so common in children, and they manage hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other critical hearing rehabilitative services that are critical to the learning, development, and quality of life in children. Speech language pathologists have many different subspecialties that includes diagnosing and treating swallowing disorders, voice problems, and speech and language disorders.

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. With our broad geographical catchment area, we are strongly in need of participation in the interstate compact so that our audiology and speech pathology 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 or school for both our patients and their caregivers. Thank you for your consideration. Many patients and their families will benefit from this compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek J. Lam', with a long, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Derek J. Lam MD, MPH, FACS
Professor

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