

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

My name is Kristina Schmalzer, and I am writing in strong support of HB 2357. I am a speech-language pathologist for the Hillsboro School District, but when I began my career in 2016, I worked for a small Oregon-based contracting company. In that role, I provided teletherapy from my home in Portland to children in Santa Rosa, California. Practicing in two states meant I needed to maintain two licenses to serve a single set of students. Obtaining licensure in multiple states presents a significant monetary and time barrier for professionals seeking to expand their opportunity and serve populations in need. If Oregon had been part of an interstate compact, I would have had greater flexibility to pursue professional opportunities while remaining in Oregon with my family. Now that I am working for Hillsboro School District, I see families in struggling with long wait times and limited local options when seeking speech therapy through private insurance. An interstate compact would allow families greater access to services for their children.

HB 2357 is a crucial step toward removing unnecessary licensing barriers and ensuring that both professionals and the individuals we serve have better access to care. By allowing Oregon to join this compact, we can expand the pool of qualified speech-language pathologists in Oregon to better serve families and support Oregonians looking for opportunities in neighboring states while remaining a resident of Oregon. I urge you to support this bill.