

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

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi, Vice Chair Nelson, and members of the committee,

My name is Samantha Stidham; I am a speech-language pathologist serving K-12 students in Columbia, Clatsop, and Washington Counties with Northwest Regional ESD. I am writing to you as a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) and an Oregonian to ask you to support HB 2357. This vital legislation will allow SLPs and audiologists to better serve all Oregonians, including rural areas and areas close to state borders, and helps to ensure that every Oregonian has timely access to quality SLP and audiological services.

The Audiology/SLP Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) offers several benefits both to clinicians and the public, most importantly improved access to audiology and SLP providers. This legislation would allow for more remote providers to serve students in rural areas in Oregon. Additionally, this compact would increase the choice of audiology and SLP providers for Oregonians. Audiology and SLP are broad fields, and it is difficult to find specialists (such as in voice, or augmentative/alternative communication) in general, let alone in rural areas.

HB 2357 offers a clear path to improved patient care across state lines. This legislation will especially benefit rural and otherwise underserved patients in our communities. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this bill.

Samantha Stidham, M.S., CCC-SLP
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