

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

February 20, 2025

Chair Nosse

900 Court St. NE, S-411

Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2357 Relating to OT, Speech Language Pathology, Audiology Compact Bill

Position: Support

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

I am writing to you as a licensed (speech language pathologist/audiologist) and an Oregonian to ask you to support HB 2357. This vital legislation will allow Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists to better serve all Oregon populations, including rural areas, areas close to state borders, and helps to ensure that every Oregonian has timely access to quality SLP and Audiology services.

The Audiology Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) offers several benefits such as those below:

- Improves access to audiology and speech-language pathology providers

My Umatilla County district is always looking for more SLPs to serve our students and the community, and passing this bill would allow for both in person and tele-practice SLPs to more easily fill these positions.

- Increases choice of audiology and speech-language pathology providers

In Umatilla county, there is a very limited number of Speech Language Pathologists; this compact would allow for students and patients to more easily access specialized SLP services such as voice or dyslexia specialties, as well as a general practitioner from a state nearby (such as Idaho or Washington) to provide quality services.

- Simplifies/speeds up the current process

ASLP-IC requires that an audiologist and speech-language pathologist be licensed in their home state but allowed to practice in a remote state through a privilege to practice. This allows the home state to continue to regulate while allowing the remote state to know who is practicing in their state and in what capacity without requiring audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain and maintain a license in every ASLP-IC state. This encourages quick turnaround for accessing clinicians to underserved communities (such as those in the rural area where I practice).

-Addresses portability & barriers to access

ASLP-IC enables clinicians to move often without having to apply for an SLP license in each state. This encourages shared resources/providers in geographical areas (as opposed to single states) and promotes continuity of care in a geographical area (such as the Pacific Northwest). Clinicians will be more motivated to stay in this field with an interstate compact in place that fits with their lifestyles.

HB 2357 offers a clear and organized path to improved patient care across state lines. These impacts will especially impact rural and otherwise underserved patients in our communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this bill,

Ailea Villanueva, MS CCC-SLP  
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