

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

Thank you for considering my testimony. I serve as the Co-Director of the Multidisciplinary Facial Nerve Center at Oregon Health & Science University, where we specialize in the care of patients with facial paralysis.

Our team depends on the expertise of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who play a critical role in treating patients with complex medical conditions that cause facial paralysis, often affecting their ability to speak and swallow. While we primarily serve patients in Oregon, we frequently provide care for individuals from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and northern California. Unfortunately, many of these patients do not have access to local therapists with the specialized training necessary to manage these complex issues.

Joining the interstate compact is essential to ensuring that our SLP colleagues can deliver continuous, specialized care across state lines. I appreciate your time and consideration—this initiative has the potential to significantly improve patient outcomes.