

Submitter: Kerry Mandulak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2423

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Kerry Mandulak, and I am a speech-language pathologist. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2423, which will establish the School-Based Health Professionals Taskforce to ensure that licensing board rules accurately reflect the realities of working in school settings.

The scope of the discipline of speech-language pathology has increased greatly over the past 30 - 40 years, and while graduate school training / a master's degree is required for practice and allows new clinicians to get trained to work as an SLP, it is across the ENTIRE scope. There are areas of SLP that require specialized training, specifically in feeding and swallowing, and that training is crucial so that children in school settings can eat safely. If SLPs without that training are put into positions where they don't have the expertise to treat a specific population of children, then those children are at significant risk.

HB2423 ensures that licensing boards have a dedicated space to discuss how their rules function in school settings—this is not about workload, but about making sure regulations are appropriate for professionals working in schools. Aligning licensing standards with school-based practice will help professionals feel confident in their roles and better serve students without unnecessary regulatory barriers.

I urge you to support HB2423 so that Oregon's licensing boards can establish clear, appropriate guidelines for school-based health professionals, improving both professional retention and student access to necessary services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Kerry Mandulak, PhD, CCC-SLP