

My name is Doctor Martin Fischer. I am the Director of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pacific University and have been a certified Speech-Language Pathologist for 35 years.

The directors and faculty of Oregon's three graduate programs in speech-language pathology at Pacific University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon strongly support universal licensure for speech-language pathologists in the state of Oregon, as envisioned in the passage and implementation of SB 287.

We feel that passage of this bill will have a significant positive impact on the training of students and the care of individuals with communication disorders. By ensuring that all speech-language pathologists practicing in Oregon meet one high set of standards implemented by the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, we insure that all speech-language and hearing services provided in the State of Oregon are of consistent quality across ages and locations. The move to universal licensure is consistent with national trends and, if passed, will bring Oregon in line with the majority of states. We find no downside to this move and offer our full support.

I would be happy to answer any questions regarding the impact of this law on student clinicians or professional speech-language pathologists.

Thank you!