



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2015

Senator Arnie Roblan
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St., NE, S-417
Salem, OR 97301

RE: S.B. 287

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 173,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 1,700 members reside in Oregon.

On behalf of our members, I am writing to strongly support S.B. 287, which would create a single license for speech-language pathologists, regardless of the setting (also known as universal licensure). This bill would ensure the protection of the consumer, including individuals of all ages, who need the services of speech-language pathologists. It would also provide a grandfather clause for teachers licensed and endorsed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission before July 1, 2016.

Universal licensure would also:

- Ensure that only speech-language pathologists with the appropriate qualifications and training can provide speech-language pathology services;
- Deter the hiring or substitution of other workers who do not have the necessary, accurate, and/or appropriate education, qualifications, and training;
- Provide job portability allowing those who are qualified for full licensure to work in all settings;
- Enhance recruitment of Clinical Fellows and other professionals;
- Deter unethical behavior from professionals and employers, such as under/over utilization, fraud and misrepresentation;
- Allow a venue for practicing professionals to express concerns regarding those who may be engaged in unethical or fraudulent practice;
- Provide a venue for consumers to seek censure of individuals who have committed malpractice or other unethical behavior;
- Provide the necessary authority to intervene in cases of provider misconduct; and
- Increase accessibility to and reimbursement from third party payer sources who stipulate that only licensed/regulated professionals participate in their plans.

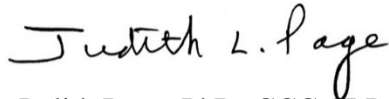
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Given these reasons, we hope that you will grant the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology the authority to license speech-language pathologists in all settings.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org, or by phone at 301-296-5667; or Janet Deppe, ASHA's director of state advocacy, at jdeppe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith L. Page". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Judith Page, PhD, CCC-SLP
2015 ASHA President