

**House Committee on Health Care
May 5, 2017 – SB 48**

The Oregon Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSHA) is an organization of like-minded professionals dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to persons of all ages. OSHA uses multiple communication media to promote best practice methods and ethical principles in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

OSHA has remained neutral on SB 48 but strongly opposes the -5 amendments. Apart from the concern regarding additional education requirements for SLPs, the -5 amendments were dropped late yesterday. When OSHA contacted the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to inquire as to the cost impact on the agency, we were told that agency staff had only just become aware of the amendments and had not been approached regarding a fiscal impact statement. This is very concerning to our members, who closely monitor the budgetary needs of the agency for possible impacts on license fees.

With regard to the inclusion of speech-language pathologists in the legislation, these professionals do not deal with clients in need of pain management and the additional courses would not be relevant to them.

The -5 amendments have not been properly vetted and additional time is needed to ascertain the true cost to the practitioners as well as their licensing agency. On behalf of our 435 members across the State, we respectfully ask that the -5 amendments not be adopted.

Thank you.
