



Statement of Support: HB 5022
Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Ways And Means – Education Subcommittee
January 30 – 8:30 am
Genoa Ingram

The Oregon Speech-Language and 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 supports the proposed budget for the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (BSPA). This Board, which protects some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens, has at times been grossly underfunded resulting in a lack of resources to adequately address its ever growing caseload. The budget has not grown to match the steady stream of new licensees which continues to grow by 11-14 percent per biennium.

As the number of licensees and agency costs continue to grow, OSHA strongly supports funding for a full time investigator as well as additional funding for a much needed new database. The BSPA can no longer be expected to manage its caseload with a half-time investigator.

The Governor's budget calls for total expenses of \$956,379, which represents a 26.5% increase over 2017-19 biennium. The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association strongly supports this increase and encourages the Joint Ways and Means Committee to pass HB 5022.
