

To: House Committee on Education  
From: Amy Samarin, MOT, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist  
Re: Support for HB 2959

My name is Amy Samarin. I am a school-based occupational therapist (OT) in Medford, Oregon. I would like to express my support for House Bill 2959.

In education, as health care professionals, we are often the lone wolf where we are one professional in each school of educators. I spend so much time researching each student's medical backgrounds through data systems created for education. It is very challenging putting pieces of puzzles together when evaluating student needs, because I waste time digging through inefficient data systems with medical information lacking. Additionally our own daily documentation templates, which is very important to our practice, are left up to us to create and share.

As OT's we spend so much time evaluating and educating others related to students' needs and abilities, that we are stretched thin when attempting to serve students directly. Our caseloads must be considered as they simply continue to grow and grow.

When working with students, we must see the whole picture of a student in order to best serve them. We look at task demands, environments and physical/emotional/cognitive challenges. So, I disagree with anyone who says that medical health professionals are not imperative in the school systems.

Creating a task force to examine the scope of practice for each type of licensed health professional in schools is a necessary step for continuity of care and supporting our students in the best way possible.

Thank you for your time and I encourage the committee to vote YES on HB 2959

Amy Samarin, MOT, OTR/L  
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