

To: House Committee on Education
From: *Larkin Millar, PT, DPT, Physical Therapist*
RE: Support for HB 2959

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee—

My name is Larkin Millar and I am here today as a Physical Therapist of seven years, and I am here to express my support for House Bill 2959.

As a trained health professional in school, I am both licensed and practice within school systems and settings that can sometimes be in conflict with one another. We believe our students deserve the best possible educational journey at every turn and we know that the barriers that provide for these conflicting rules to our licensure are systemic, so we know the solutions will take long-term commitment and dedication.

PTs are often in charge of training educators on how to transfer a student from their wheelchair onto the changing table, how to assist a student in the hallway, and how to make sure a student can access the playground and play with their peers. When our caseloads are exploding there is very little time given to training others. Given the high turnover rate for paraeducators in the school system, PTs are training even within the year for new staff. As we work towards a more inclusive model where we have more students attend their neighborhood schools, PTs are a vital resource in creating safe training to allow these students access to their education. Budget cuts put even a higher strain on PTs to have enough capacity to keep our students safe.

One clear concern expressed by members from all licensed professionals working in an education setting is the disconnect between requirements of licensure and the realities of practice in schools. That is why we need HB 2959, which will create a Task Force to examine the scope of practice for each type of licensed health professional in schools, establish criteria to help define when procedures are inconsistent with scope of practice, and provide recommendations for alignment.

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

Larkin Millar, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist
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