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To: House Committee on Education

From: Ana Lia Oliva Ed.D. CCC-SLP
Oregon Speech Language and Hearing Association

Re: Support for HB 2618

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the House Committee on Education

As the President of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA), I fully support HB 2618. Our educational system is currently struggling significantly to recruit and retain in-person specialized staff within school districts and programs across the state. The working conditions of these allied health professionals impact the learning conditions and support of students. Many districts are experiencing turnover of staff resulting in decreased access to student services across the state which is exacerbating workload and burnout issues for remaining staff.

I support HB 2618 which promotes a Workload study initiative that aims to create sustainable working conditions for speech-language pathologists and other allied health professionals such as occupational and physical therapists who serve student needs in educational settings. The enactment of HB 2618 will provide a path forward to examining existing proven workload models to support a decision-making framework for staffing and accessible service delivery models across the state that promote student success.

We appreciate and support and strongly urge the passage of HB 2618.

Sincerely,

Ana Lia Oliva

Ana Lia Oliva, Ed.D. CCC-SLP
President
Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association