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HB 252 – Proponent Testimony by Alex Meibos

Senate Health Committee

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 252, which would create the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). My name is Alex Meibos, I am an audiologist and assistant professor teaching at the University of Akron, with a joint appointment to teach future audiology leaders and clinicians through the Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium, in collaboration with Kent State University and The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

As someone who works with patients from different backgrounds and having multiple clinical licensure in Ohio and my family's state of Utah, and an interest in being able to serve and help patients in bordering states to Ohio such as Pennsylvania, I have a keen interest in HB 252 because of my work as a clinical audiologist and professor. I also think it would provide opportunities for many of our future audiologists in the northeast Ohio region to meet the needs of individuals with hearing loss and communication disorders. I support HB 252 because:

- The ASLP-IC will increase access to care for patients.
- The ASLP-IC will facilitate continuity of care when patients relocate or travel to another compact member state.
- The ASLP-IC will remove barriers for audiologists and speech-language pathologists seeking to practice across state lines.

Passage of HB 252 would allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines in other ASLP-IC member states. This will provide opportunities for practitioners in Ohio and increase access to care to underserved Ohioans. HB 252 will also help facilitate continuity of care when patients relocate or travel to another compact state.

I wish to express my gratitude to the committee for your consideration of my comments. If anyone on the committee has any questions or concerns regarding this letter of supporting HB 252, please feel free to contact me.

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