

**HB 252**  
**Senate Health Committee**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**May 26, 2021**

Thank you to the legislature for considering this important issue. I am a Speech Pathologist and Audiologist who is licensed and works in both Ohio and Florida.

Recently I had an offer to do teletherapy in another state. When I looked at the long process and requirements to get another state license, it was just too difficult and expensive to attempt this process. I did at one time get a license in New Mexico as well, but within a year it expired and I was asked to begin the long process of licensing all over again. I did not do it. There is a great shortage of professionals in our field all across the country.

I am currently doing teletherapy in OH, last year I did teletherapy in Florida. I know that the schools I have worked in have major problems finding Speech Pathologists. Doing teletherapy, I have been able to help in 2 states. I am a snow bird between Ohio—Florida but I have been unable to help out in any other states.

Additionally, in Ohio I live 2-3 miles from the Pennsylvania border. I inquired about a license in PA recently. Again, the time, money, and paperwork was overwhelming.

Teletherapy has been a mutually beneficial option for many semi-retired professionals like myself and the various schools in which we work. Cross-state licensing is currently a huge roadblock to both Teletherapy and flexibility in providing “in area-on the ground” services.

I do appreciate the support of my legislators in improving the availability of therapy services across State lines.

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