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From: **Susan Kimmerly** <skimmerly@9east.net>

Date: Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 6:46 PM

Subject: SLP licensure

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I want to share with you what I wrote to the Senate Gov. Ops Comm in support of s.217, as revised, which ensures that the profession of speech-language pathology is regulated by **one** government entity, the Office of Professional Regulation. I am a former President of the Vermont Speech-Language Hearing Association and the current Vermont representative to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Advisory Council, a position elected by Vermont's certified SLPs. I am also on the Special Education Advisory Council, a governor appointed council to advise the AOE on issues related to special education. I am also the director of an independent school (New School of Montpelier), exclusively serving special education students with severe disabilities and of Nine East Network, the provider of the state supported services for VT children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

I am struggling to understand why two agencies would regulate the same profession and each charge separate fees. **The two agencies have virtually the same requirements, when one looks at the documents that are reviewed.** The OPR has a proven track record of a relatively simple process, while the AOE changes its process frequently and has been known to lose track of applications for people who work in schools but are not employed by schools (e.g., Teachers of the Deaf). It is extremely complicated. In addition, the VT Professional Standards Board (licensing body for teachers) does not necessarily include SLPs or other allied health professionals, so its decisions and judgments are not informed by current practice.

I urge you not to allow AOE to double license and double fee SLPs and to allow the OPR to be the exclusive regulatory body of SLPs. It seems logical and efficient.

Sincerely,

- Susan
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