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***Testimony***

My name is Dayna Fisk. Ten years ago, I was a graduate student at Northeastern University, eager to begin my career as a medical speech-language pathologist in Massachusetts. My supervisor, Barbara Wilson Arboleda, filed a bill with her legislator, Representative McMurtry, in response to the lack of provisional licensure. She coached me on the issue and asked me to testify on behalf of graduate students on the importance of this legislation at a Public Hearing at the Massachusetts State House. I felt hopeful that this would pass and be implemented by the time I would graduate in Spring 2016. The bill failed, and although I am now fulfilled in my school-based position, the trajectory of my career was drastically changed and influenced by the lack of this legislation. Ten years later from that first time testifying, I come to you today as the President Elect of the Massachusetts Speech Language Hearing Association. In that time, thousands of students have continued to enroll in Massachusetts colleges and universities to obtain clinical training from the world renowned hospitals, to be shuttered from becoming employed at these facilities due to the lack of provisional licensure.

In November 2022, we were overjoyed to see the bill become law. We rejoiced in the efforts by the many people involved that put time, effort, and money to truly alter the law here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Since then, over 600 students have graduated and have expressed confusion, frustration, and anger at the executive process and pause between a bill becoming law, and that law becoming implemented. I am in strong support of the swift implementation of each of the proposed amendments to the regulations as written without further delay and look forward to the announcement to our membership upon its implementation. Thank you.

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