

Capitol News

April 14, 2019

Melissa Johnson, Lobbyist

SB 5887, our prior authorization bill, **was voted unanimously** out of the House last Friday. It was amended, however, and WSLHA is still analyzing the impact of this amendment. It now returns to the Senate, where the Senate must accept or reject this amendment. WSLHA continues to work with legislators in both the House and Senate on this bill.

The **music therapy bill, SB 5485**, is now eligible to be voted on by the House. WSLHA is working with legislators to add an amendment to the bill that would prohibit music therapists from treating communication disorders.

Lawmakers have just **two weeks left** until the scheduled end of the legislative session on April 28th, and there is still much work to do. Wednesday is the opposite house cutoff, when House bills must be out of the Senate and Senate bills out of the House. Starting Thursday, legislators will address bills that passed both chambers but in different forms. These differences must be reconciled for the bill to advance.

Budget negotiations between the House and Senate are in full swing this week, with negotiators meeting daily. The question of **revenue** is at the center of the negotiations. Both the House and Senate budgets rely on new revenue, but different sources and at different levels.
