

Dear Representative Greenlick, [et.al.](#),

I would like to follow up with HB 2468 legislation. I see that it is assigned to your committee. Here is my brief information concerning the legislation I thought it would be helpful to consider such items that perhaps have impacted on Oregonians with hearing losses tremendously.

According to the page 1: Section C (line 26-29): "a network of providers that is sufficient in number, geographic distribution and types of providers to ensure enrollees in the plan have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare services."

Translation to plain-speak: "a network of providers of all types that is sufficient to meet the need and geographically available and that can provide culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare services" so that it would require that there be people who are aware of Deaf culture and can provide linguistically appropriate access. The latter could arguably be managed via interpreter, but knowledge of Deaf culture would be a higher bar, and understanding deafness on health and mental health is a big deal, so mandating it would be good. Getting it on record that legislative intent is to include Deafness as part of the definition would be helpful, particularly if it passes (and particularly if there is a subsequent lawsuit, and legislative intent can be demonstrated).

That is why I thought HB 2468 may be useful and helpful to improve efficiency for maximum of communication we ensure that is effective as well.

Please let us know your thoughts, and we look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Best regards,
Steven

Steven M Brown, Chair
Oregon Association of the Deaf of Legislation Committee