



March 22, 2015

The Hon. Sara Gelser,
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Childhood
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Gelser,

I would like to take the opportunity to write to you with our support of Senate Bill 449. SB 449 is being introduced by Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and encourages the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide mandated services for hard of hearing, deaf and deafblind Oregonians.

Currently, ORS 410.740 does not require the DHS to provide services, even if it is advised by its own advisory committee. We would like DHS to be required to provide such services.

We have a few of personal and general reasons for wanting to the DHS to provide services as described by SB 449. These include the fact that people who are hard of hearing may:

- leave the workforce prematurely due to their not being able to understand speech well enough to perform their work,
- suffer depression and withdraw from civic, cultural and entertainment events thus depriving society of their participation and may
- have difficulty obtaining effective accommodations at public events.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please support and advocate for SB 449!

Sincerely,

Clark O. Anderson, President
Hearing Loss Association of America, Oregon State Association
PO Box 22501
Eugene, Oregon 97402

CC: Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD)