



The Hon. Sara Gelser
Chairwoman before the Senate Committee
On Human Services and Early Childhood
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 449

Chairwoman Hon. Sara Gelser and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood, let me introduce myself - I am Mark Hill. I am the President of the Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization, a national organization, (CPADO), focusing on well-being of deaf persons with cerebral palsy and other mobility disabilities as well. I am an Oregon resident and also, serve as a member of the OAD Legislative Committee.

On the Behalf of 186-thousand deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing citizens of Oregon, especially those who have additional disabilities, CPADO strongly supports the bill as I speak in the hearing on SB 449 at the Senate Committee today.

I strongly believe that the community needs assessment during first two years if it becomes a law and being budgeted for the service will recognize the needs of people with additional disabilities. We have different perspectives in comparing with a normal deaf or a hard of hearing persons and also, a hearing person with cerebral palsy, related to an difficult communication skill. Giving you an example, you can see why I use a certified deaf interpreter (CDI) here with me to read my difficult signing and to interpret clearly what I say for an interpreter to voice-interpret to you all in the hearing today. That is one example of many. There is no statistics of a general census of deaf persons with cerebral palsy in the State of Oregon and USA as well where CPADO has been searching all over so far, even through a web search. The community needs assessment will do help us to provide a better opportunity in getting a service for those certain consumers.

Sharing my personal story with you, I was a human service unit director for first three years and then, a community specialist for several years for a small rural state branch office of a for-profit national services organization for the deaf and hard of hearing consumers. I provided advocacy and information/referral services to help them to succeed as full-pledged citizens. Anyway, here is my favorite story to share - a deaf client, with a little read-and-write skill but having skillful hand-works as a auto mechanic and handyman, walked out from his former tire service store

after his frustration being discriminated by his new boss and directly came in to my office. After hearing his frustration, I brought in a friend, who was able to type a letter to the unemployment compensation office with his highly-skilled journalistic writing, with me during the interview with the client where I was able to draw more information out of his frustration into a full story in a letter with a strong reason to apply for an unemployment compensation. He did receive an compensation after a letter was mailed. Without our help, he would not able to communicate with the unemployment compensation office, even with an interpreter, and would possibly not receive it. Communication at the state office of deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing program is a keyword to help those clients like this if the SB 449 becomes a law and being budgeted.

Based on my professional experience, I believe that it is sorely needed to have its own service to deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing citizens with no question how important it is and would assist other agencies with a better understanding how to work with deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing consumers through an education provided by the office. Let's break the glass ceiling where many opportunities are out there without any oppression or paternalism what we called it an audism and ableism. I strongly encourage the Senate Committee a Do-Pass on this important bill, SB 449.

I am more than happy to answer any question that you may have. Thank you.

**Respectfully testified by -
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