

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Sherri L. Collins
Executive Director



Arizona Commission
for the deaf and the hard of hearing
100 N 15th Avenue * Suite 104 * Phoenix, AZ 85007
acdhh.org

February 23, 2015

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Sara Gelser
Chairwoman of the Human Services and Early Childhood committee
900 Court St. NE, S-405
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Honorable Senator Sara Gelser,

On behalf of Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH), we urge you to support Senate Bill 449 to create office for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Services in Department of Human Services. ACDHH is a state agency and we have been successful with serving more than 750,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing for 38 years. Our purpose is to ensure, in partnership with the public and private sector, accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to improve their quality of life. We seek to empower Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing individuals by providing information, service, and educating the community about their rights to effective communication and equal access to public program service. ACDHH provides the following services: a statewide 24-hour telephone relay service, telecommunications equipment distribution program, American Sign Language Interpreter Licensure, empowerment, community development and taskforces. ACDHH supports the efforts of the Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD) to promote passage of this Senate Bill.

With the passage of Senate Bill 449, it will fill in the gap of lack of information available to Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians, and it gives them an ability to access their communication needs. However, they require equal access to effective communication for government, education, employment, programs, professional services, and other opportunities. This Senate Bill will save the State of Oregon money by avoiding potential ADA related lawsuits, at the same time; it will improve the quality of life of Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians.

ACDHH is one of the 38 active state agencies of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hard of Hearing and we strongly urge you and your Senate on Human Services and Early Childhood committee to support Senate Bill 449. We are seeking to all of its citizens are treated equally and we encourage Oregon to join the 38 active state agencies. Thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the position of the ACDHH of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@acdhh.az.gov or 602-542-3323

Sincerely,

Sherri Collins
Executive Director

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The mission of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is to ensure, in partnership with the public and private sectors, accessibility for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and persons with speech difficulties to improve their quality of life.