



The Hon. Jeff Barker,
Chairman before the House Committee on Judiciary

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

May 13, 2015

Dear Honorable Representative Barker,

My name is Steven M. Brown, and I am Chair of the Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD) legislative subcommittee. I would like to take a moment to share our observations on SB 740, and impress upon you both its importance of having equal access to receiving reasonable accommodations that the people with disabilities may need in order to participate fully.

OAD supports SB 740. This particular legislation will remove the requirement that arrested person with disability provide proof of inability to obtain qualified interpreter in order for public employer of arresting officer to pay for interpreter.

OAD believes SB 740 is essential to the need for arrested person with disability to have the access to such accommodations that s/he is protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) law. There is no reason for arrested person with disability to prove that s/he is unable to obtain qualified interpreters because ADA requires public employers to accommodate with such requests, more specifically under the Title I Employment of ADA. Essentially, public employers are responsible to determine the appropriate needs for such accommodations based on the persons with disabilities' needs.

Thank you for your strong leadership and for your commitment to make it achievable for all.

Sincerely,

Steven M Brown, MPA, MA
Chair, OAD Legislation
Subcommittee

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW
President

CC: Senator Chip Shields, the chief sponsor of SB 740