



March 28, 2017

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Keny-Guyer,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss House Bill 3160. We support this bill with the understanding that we propose to replace the wording "blind and deaf" to "deaf-blind" for each time it appears in the bill.

In the recent passing of the Oregon Administrative Rule(OAR 411-019-0010) in March 2017, we have a clear definition on the term "deaf-blind." The term, "deaf-blind," refers to people with a variety of causes and/or degrees of combined vision and hearing losses that will impose barriers to communication, education, work, and social interaction. This term does not necessarily mean total lack of hearing and vision. Deaf-blind individuals can use a variety of adaptive technology and may also use visual or tactile sign language.

We need for this bill and all other bills aboard to be consistent with word use when it comes to explain the deaf-blind.

Sincerely,

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW, ADAC
President
Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Founded in 1921 and with more than 260 members, OAD's mission is to promote, protect and preserve the civil rights for more than 186,000 Oregonians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and those with an additional disability. Visit www.OAD1921.org and www.fb.com/DeafOregon.

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