



March 29, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Greenlick,

We are asking you to oppose House Bill 3268. This bill creates a dilemma with Senate Bill 1023 directing the Public Utility Commission's Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) to allocate funding to the Department of Human Services' Office of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Services which is currently being introduced as Senate Bill 1018.

The HB 3268 is written to directly abolish the RSPF and have funds be transferred to the General Fund which may be used for general governmental purposes. The RSPF manages several programs, two being the Oregon Telecommunication Relay Service and Telecommunication Devices Access Program who provide direct services to over 186,000 Oregonians with hearing loss and those with any additional disabilities. The third and last program is the Oregon Telecommunication Assistance Program in where RSPF manages the Lifeline program. The Lifeline program helps to reduce monthly landline, wireless or broadband bills for Oregonians receiving qualifying benefits.

Please oppose House Bill 3268 and allow all three programs within the RSPF remain intact.

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](http://www.OAD1921.org) and [www.fb.com/DeafOregon](http://www.fb.com/DeafOregon).

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