



April 3, 2017

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Riley,

More than 186,000 Oregonians live with varying degrees of hearing loss. This is an invisible disability that is easily overlooked and often are under serviced or plainly unserved, mainly due to lack of accessible information.

Over the past 3 years, I became actively involved with legislative advocacy work and it has been 100% volunteered, unpaid lobbying work. During this time, I found myself experiencing so many barriers in having access to information in this building that defines our future.

Due to the lack of captioning, I cannot understand the discussion that takes place through the televisions that are seen throughout the galleria area, various legislators' offices, the Oregon Capitol Club, cafeteria, including the video streaming through the capitol web site. I am still among the many registered voters who are left in the dark.

This bill will begin to provide the functional equivalency and access to information for many Oregonians who rely on captioning. This should never be about money, this is about making your house accessible to all rightfully deserving Oregon citizens.

Please support Senate Bill 829!

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.