



April 17, 2017

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Doherty, and the Members of the House Committee on Education

Oregon Association of the Deaf is the oldest civil rights organization in Oregon and representing over 186,000 Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and those with an additional disabilities.

On behalf of OAD members, I am writing to support HB 3412 and this is an emergency to address the need to implement a taskforce to address the language deprivation among the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who utilize ASL and English.

In the Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Assessment report, the report show 41,000 children taken the Kindergarten Assessment and all 54 Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from the data demonstrated significant low in the assessment rating.

In December 2016, Western Oregon University published the Community-Based Needs Assessment of Oregon's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities. On page 29 through 35, there is an in depth report about access to education and significant barrier related to education options and information. The report presents grave concern for our 1,050 Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in state.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from birth to eight years old is in a critical need to have full acquiring language to maximize their learning experience and equal access to education.

Thank you for your time to observe my testimony and I strongly encourage for a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Sincerely,

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW, ADAC
President and Registered Lobbyist
Oregon Association of the Deaf



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](https://www.facebook.com/DeafOregon).

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