

Dear Representative Margaret Doherty,

My name is Amanda Hvass and I am the mother of a deaf child in Eugene, OR. We were involved in early intervention and they helped us tremendously with his language development. Our Teacher of the Deaf did a great job of checking his development and making sure we stayed on a steady track. I assumed this was a normal thing but in getting to know many members of the deaf community, I have found that that is not always typical. Many times EI providers become such close friends that they don't want to be the bearer of bad news, and they will omit the language delay from their evaluations. Parents often want to believe that everything is fine and kind of take the "ignorance is bliss" road, and are able to stay in denial for much longer than serves the child.

Lead-K will help parents be more aware of where their child is at for language development. Without checks and balances, it's so hard to know how your child is doing. I am so excited about the possibility of what this bill could do for many Deaf and Hard of Hearing children... My son is also missing a portion of his brain, so learning comes with great effort. Most Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids are only deaf. They simply need language. I am very passionate about them getting language, because they have fully functioning brains! Please take this to heart when deciding if this bill will move forward.

I genuinely believe this will serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. It will create better educated individuals, that will in turn benefit our society as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Amanda Hvass
Parent to Oliver Hvass
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