

My name is Clark Anderson. I am retired from work in hospital/health care administration and have a Ph.D. and an MBA in psychology. I am a member of ODHHS-Advisory Committee. I am also the President of two organizations that have the goal of meeting or advocating for the needs of the hard of hearing: Hearing Loss Association of Oregon and Oregon Communication Access Project which together represent hundreds of hard of hearing people.

I identify as being hard of hearing, having had a progressive hearing loss and want to be able to communicate with the greater hearing population as well as with other hard of hearing individuals who rarely understand sign language interpreting. When hearing aids no longer worked for me I got two cochlear implants. Even with these devices I have difficulty understanding speech without assistive technology and/or captioning.

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A general comment: This bill is fatally flawed for two reasons.

- In my reading of the bill it is not clear whether this network involves contracted or staff mental health professionals or as simple as an information and referral systems. These options involve a significant range of costs. I would strike Section 5 and make specific what kind of network/system is envisioned by the authors.
- This bill is purported to encompass the hard of hearing and deaf yet it does not recognize those issues that the hard of hearing have. For example, while the need for interpreting services apply to the deaf, the bill totally ignores the auxiliary aids and services and should specifically include assistive listening devices or services, namely closed captioning, CART and induction hearing loops that we require under most conditions to understand speech. In this respect, this is a deaf and deaf bill rather than a deaf and hard of hearing bill.

Amendment 1

Section 6

- Subsection (1): Add in line26: ...treatment center **or seen by a physician** must be...
- Subsection (3) -(5) strike.

Sections (7) and (8): Strike

Insertion on page 2

- Lines 19-20: strike ...with or without visual signs or cues ... and insert **often requiring captions, hearing loops, assistive listening devices or other auxiliary aids and services.**
- Lines 22-28: strike.

Section 2, subsection (3), line 27: Substitute **Certified** for Qualified captioners

Section 7: Strike...a monetary penalty is not justified. Hospitals have risk managers/departments that are in place to avoid situations that expose the hospital to malpractice or other suits. I suspect that notification of the need of hard of hearing people or deaf for accommodations that help insure that this bill should specify.

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Original Bill

Section 5, (e): strike and substitute **Encourage professionals to become knowledgeable regarding communication aids and services required by those who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing.**

Thank you for considering these comments.

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