Testimony supporting HB 3160A Before the Senate Human Services Committee

April 27, 2017

By: Steven M Brown, MPA, MA, LMHCA, NCC

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Dear Chair Senator Gelser, and the Senate Human Services Committee Members,

I am here to support HB 3160A because I believe in promoting the independence for the people with blindness, including for those with hearing loss and blindness. They deserve the same consideration as if they have no visual impairment. And, mostly important, they also deserve the independence and are independent especially without being in fear.

This bill moves to that direction where Oregon gives people with blindness with the dignity and with the promise to provide the safeguarding measures for those pedestrians with the blindness. I trust this bill carries, and will, with very good intention to protect and ensure the safety as the whole, not just for the Oregonians with the visual impairment.

I applaud the House Committee on Health Care it decided to amend and insert "deaf-blind" to this bill. OAD has endorsed the amendment and respectfully asks that this Committee does the same – that is, to pass with the "**do-pass**" recommendation for the full Senate floor votes.

Thank you for reading my testimony letter.

Best regards,

Steven M Brown 3814 SE 16th Avenue Portland, OR 97202