



**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR**  
**Senate Bill 85**

Testimony of Jon Cray

Oregon Public Utility Commission

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Senate Bill 85 is designed to change the composition of the Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) Advisory Committee. Existing statute requires a twelve-membership committee specifically comprised of seven (7) individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, one who has a speech disability, one who has a disability, one professional in the field of speech, hearing, or disability, one member of the Public Utility Commission, and one telecommunications industry representative.

However, the advisory committee has not had a full membership in seven (7) years despite recruitment efforts that included, but was not limited to advertisements and outreach to disability-related organizations. Also, the advisory committee, in 2009, amended the bylaws to reduce the term requirement from four (4) years to two (2) years and to host meetings biannually instead of quarterly to attract potential volunteers, but membership only averaged eight (8) individuals.

The Public Utility Commission's proposal to reduce the size of the advisory committee is based on the seven (7) member requirement for the Commission for the Blind. After collaborating with the Oregon Association of the Deaf to amend Senate Bill 85 to include an individual who is deaf-blind, the composition of the advisory committee, if Senate Bill 85 passes, will consist of three (3) who are deaf or hard of hearing, one who has a speech disability or other disability, one who is deaf-blind or has a vision impairment, a professional in the field of speech, hearing, vision, or other disability, and one telecommunications industry representative.



The TDAP Advisory Committee supports this bill.

The Public Utility Commission urges you to pass this bill, which provides for a more balanced representation of Oregonians with disabilities and allows the advisory committee to have sufficient membership.