

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
Chair Representative Paul Holvey  
Co-Chairs Representatives Greg Barreto and Janelle Byunm  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

May 16, 2017

Dear Chair Representative Holvey, and Co-Chair Representative Barreto, and Co-Chair Representative Byunm, and the Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

Hello, my name is Steven M Brown. I am a registered lobbyist on behalf of Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD), and am a vice president of that association, as well.

I am here to extend my strong support for SB 85 to be **“passed” with the recommendation** for the House votes. The bill is an excellent move for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to manage one of the advisory committees that administrates telecommunication access programs more effective. The reason is simple; and that is, current memberships which is 12 committee members make the advisory committee ineffective operable due to numerous vacant. PUC has a hard time to search and recruit the right advisory applicants to fill such vacant in the committee.

Moreover, one of the advisory committees involves with this legislation would be focused on what it calls, “Telecommunication Device Access Program” (TDAP). The legislation asks PUC to downsize current memberships from 12 to just 7 committee members. I believe these downsized memberships will help to ensure that the advisory committee operable even better and with balanced, fairest representation of all in our communities.

Lastly, I want to particularly thank Co-Chair Representative Janelle Bynum for her strong voice and representation of the children in the advisory committee. We have met on several occasions, to brainstorm and decide the best languages inserted in SB 85 that would provide stronger representation of the children in the advisory committee, but we eventually decided to just keep -1 amendment with no further insertions.

However, PUC, Co-Chair Representative Bynum, and OAD also agree that PUC would initiate the rulemaking process – and that is, would clarify the roles of current memberships in the advisory committee, including the definitions of each membership role. We ensure that the children’s voice will be well-represented in the committee.

I look forward to seeing this bill passed with the **do-pass recommendation**. Our time and efforts are worth and so be for the PUC to take such measures involved with the requirements in this legislation. So far, the bill is in a good position, I urge you to carry the "torch" to the end.

Best regards,



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