

Dear committee members,

Hi my name is Shannon Mason and I am a resident of Oregon who is DeafBlind and have various communication needs. I currently represent ODBCAN (Oregon DeafBlind Alliance Network) and jointly work with Chad Ludwig whom has been my mentor and supporter in getting these moved through the legislative process with your help as well.

While I myself do not use a Communication Facilitator, I do have a genuine understanding of how a CF for a DeafBlind, Deaf person with secondary disability such as someone who is Deaf with Cerebral Palsy with limited use of their hand(s) who might have difficulty articulating their communication with friends and family as well as in the employment environment.

Allowing the Public Utilities Commission through Telecommunication Device Assistance Program to administer the Communication Facilitator program for Oregonians that need these services will allow them autonomy in the area of telecommunication regardless of how the telecommunication is conducted as long as the Communication Facilitator is fluent in American Sign Language or any other modes of communication preferred by the consumer.

DeafBlind and Deaf disabled with other secondary disabilities can greatly benefit these services especially if they have extremely limited hearing and vision and need to have accessibility that is equal to their Deaf sighted peers (meaning

Deaf people who can see and use sign language) for comparison.

Thank you for your support and time and I hope to see a do-pass vote for HB3205 :).