

Please support Senate Bill 795, ensuring permanence of the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services program within the Department of Human Services.

SB 795 will make DHS agency programs available and accessible to all Oregonians who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

I am Janet Weil, president of the Oregon Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Our organization supports children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and hearing professionals. While our focus is on those with spoken language, rather than signing, we are committed to ensuring there is communication access for all individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing. To that end we work with related organizations, such as the Oregon Association for the Deaf, to improve services, policies, and practices, so that regardless of hearing ability or communication mode, all people with hearing loss can participate fully as Oregonians.

Over the course of my 40+ year deaf education career, I have come to learn key issues that help students and their families succeed. If you would like more information on related issues, I would be happy to discuss them with you.

We thank you for all that you do on behalf of all of us, and look forward to your support for SB 795.

Sincerely,

Janet Weil

President, Oregon AG Bell