



Testimony for the hearing on the House Bill 3205 - Communication Facilitators

Good morning, the Chairman and members of the House Committee my name is Mark Hill. I am the President of the Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization, a national organization and also, an Oregon resident. I am here in the support of the House Bill 3205.

In your handouts, it has a fact sheet that tells more why we need a communication facilitator in either a direct videophone or through a video relay service.

First, I tell a story of my experience in a remote conference call. I have a mild cerebral palsy and also, a chronic neuropathy from below the cervical area to toes that makes difficult in my signing skill. Anyway, I often use a certified or qualified Deaf interpreter in many onsite meeting to facilitate the communication between me and an American Sign Language interpreter. For the remote conference call, I found pretty difficult to confer or discuss without a communication facilitator in many important conferences, meetings and other business discussions and in many times, ASL interpreters misinterpret or ask me to repeat what I said. Same for others who are deaf or hard of hearing with additional disabilities.

In the Deaf community, we have a large number of Deaf members who have cerebral palsy. The statistics shows a stark difference between us and a general population with cerebral palsy-

Gallaudet University Research Institute- One of twenty-five deaf students has cerebral palsy (1/25 - 3.7 percent)

In the general population with cerebral palsy in a few online publication - two out of 2100 - 2400 births each year.

Now you can see a big difference between two statistics. And, there are many ranges of how serve a person with cerebral palsy from mild to severe and body parts where it affects.

Not only cerebral palsy, many have other disabilities in a limited mobility to communicate as well.. Like DeafBlind, deaf-blind and low-vision consumers, we all have a freedom and become more productive and independent in a society by providing a communication facilitator in a telephonic conference

Please vote DoPass in the support of the House Bill 3205.

Thank you.

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