

## **HB 3205 Testimony**

Good morning, Chair Riley, Vice Chair Girod, and members.

I am Logan Poynor, President of Oregon Association of the Deaf.

I wanted to open with a personal anecdote about a friend, Chris, who I grew up with. Chris was always that friend who could build or fix anything. As a kid, everyone knew if your electronics such as a laptop broke, Chris could fix it! Needless to say, Chris is a very capable and independent person.

However, here's a little more about Chris- he has Usher's Syndrome. This is a visual disability described as "tunnel vision" and very often paired with partial or total hearing loss. In Chris' case, he was born fully Deaf. Unfortunately, Usher's symptoms include Retinitis Pigmentosa(RP) which can cause eventual total loss of vision which happened to Chris.

After that, something as simple as getting on the phone to set up an doctor's appointment became extremely complicated, and things started to slip out of Chris's control.

With this bill, we put the control back in Chris's hands. Let Oregon be the first state to have Communication Facilitator legislation. Thank you.

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