

From the desk of Chad A. Ludwig



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May 19, 2019

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE, S-211
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1033

To the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Chad A. Ludwig and I am writing this letter as a private citizen, I want to disclose that I do work as an Interim Director of Regional Resource Center on Deafness at Western Oregon University and as a volunteer Executive Director for Bridges Oregon, Inc. I am involved in multiple activities in the community that including serving on legislative committee with Oregon Association of the Deaf and on countless advisory committees, work groups, and projects. This letter serves on behalf of legislative committee with Oregon Association of the Deaf.

I regret I am unable to be present during the work session hearing and since I need to be at work today.

Please support SB 1033!

The US Census estimated over 192,000 Oregonians living with hearing loss and this bill will bridge the law enforcement with the community members who themselves are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

This bill provide option to Deaf and hard of hearing community to voluntarily disclose their hearing status with DMV and to propose by removing the Restriction Code #F as written outside mirror are required on vehicle.

This similar legislative bill was passed in state of North Carolina (H.84) in 2017 and Kentucky (SB 189) in 2017.

The Community-Based Needs Assessment (CNA) was funded by the legislature through SB 449a in 2015 and it was brought back to legislature during 2017 with a final report. The report is available online at www.wou.edu/rrcd/cna/. In this report, the Deaf and hard of hearing shared in their word

- I struggle to understand the police officer
- The law enforcement seem irritated in communicating with me
- Over 50% (n. 883 respondents) had difficulties with law enforcement.
- I was forced to lipread the police officer
- I was put on handcuff and the police officer talked to me, I do not understand.

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In the Science Direct, Lisa Southwick and Mary Vacala published this piece in 2008. It has been reported, "...the best lip-reader are only able to understand approximately 30-40% of what is actually said on the lips."

In early 2016, the representatives from Deaf and Hard of Hearing community worked with Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) met to review their training curriculum and we were able to do a few things

- Implement a new visor and wallet communication card
- Enhance the Deaf and hard of hearing training curriculum
- Invite the Deaf and hard of hearing community member in the role player during the hand on activities with new law enforcement students.
- Deaf teacher teaches a class every month to DPSST students
- There is NO funding available to teach the veteran law enforcement

Every class, the students in the DPSST class often ask – how do they know they are about to work with an individual who is Deaf and hard of hearing. The students express their strong desire to having a system in place for them to run vehicle's license plate, any Oregon government issued identification card number and address through the system in which the system will flag the law enforcement that the person they will or are current working with is a person who is Deaf and hard of hearing.

Since the Public Hearing on May 13th, I would like to add a few more information in regards to testimony made by Amy Joyce, ODOT Legislative Liaison.

There was a case with Oklahoma Law Enforcement beating a Deaf man, Pearl Pearson, he attempted to use the visor communication card and it was ignored. If the law enforcement was notified before he got out of his cruiser car that the individual he is about to work with is a person who is Deaf or hard of hearing. I believe this situation would have gone differently. Video link: https://youtu.be/kZ_AgRuFjcA

The 911 dispatcher, law enforcement and any other individual who have an access to Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) shall have an access to information in the system to enable them to better prepare any situations that involves individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

It is in my recommendation for the Deaf or hard of hearing individual demonstrate a copy of their audiogram with 20 decibels or greater hearing loss to be signed by licensed audiologist in state of Oregon to be written in through rulemaking instead of legislative process.

Sincerely,



Chad A. Ludwig, MSW, ADAC, DI