

Rep. Rachel Prusak, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

March 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Support for HB3231, the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

To the Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Salinas, and members of the Committee:

My name is Audrey Ramirez-Loudenback and I am a Sign Language interpreter that is writing to urge the Committee's support of HB3231.

Throughout my 12 years of professional interpreting experience in the state of Oregon I have seen that our community needs a way to standardize interpreting services so there is a consistent minimum quality of interpreting provided for the communities we live and work within. Too many agencies are operating in a way that is putting everyone at risk by hiring Sign Language Interpreters that are not qualified in medical, legal, educational, and community settings. Often times the consequence for providing sub-par interpreting services are most severe on the Deaf and hard of hearing people we are trying to serve.

As a professional and practicing interpreter I feel strongly that we need state licensure as a way to provide some accountability for organizations and individuals that are taking advantage of our communities by not providing quality interpreter services. I hope you can realize that establishing this licensure process will benefit all those who depend on interpreting services as well as those of us that are working in this field and believe minimum standards are needed to uphold our own professional integrity.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Audrey Ramirez-Loudenback  
565 Harbortown Ct SE  
Salem OR 97306