

Dear Rep. Sanchez and Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of HB 2585. We need to establish better policies and protocols to address and solve the lack of access to behavioral healthcare for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind clients. To do this, we need appropriate infrastructure, quality interpreting services, and staff who are well trained to work with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind clients, and I believe this bill will support this much needed development. I work in community-based mental health and at present would not know where I could turn to to secure mental and behavioral health support for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind community members and that needs to change.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support, and please vote "yes!" on HB 2585.

Sincerely,
Kris Bifulco