

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2595  
February 22, 2021  
House Committee on Behavioral Health  
John D. Curtis  
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Good morning Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Moore-Green and Nosse, and members of the committee. My name is John Curtis. I advocate for seniors and people living with disabilities. This testimony supplements remarks I submitted last week in support of HB 2585.

First let me express how appreciative I am of this Committee's task to hear the difficult and emotional issues that you do. Your ability to perform this work with grace, dignity and respect is encouraging. It was especially apparent at today's Public Hearings. Thank you.

I, like each of you, am still in what the Deaf call the "Hearing World." I, perhaps like some of you, am on a path from it into the world for people with hearing loss. The Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing all too often live in a world that is inhospitable and inaccessible to them. Perhaps you and I might one day find ourselves there. The thought can be terrifying as one contemplates how and what will remain of the valuable parts of our lives which we presently enjoy.

It must be terrifying to be trapped inside such a place with no means to communicate with professionals who are trained to calm and allay the fear, stress and anxiety when these worlds collide.

I believe that appropriate and effective means of communication are necessary in all healthcare settings. I sincerely hope it is available for me if or when I need it.

I urge your support of HB 2585.

Sincerely,

John D. Curtis