

I'd like to add that in ~20 years of working as a physician, I saw many medical professionals struggle and often eventually dismiss their patients who weren't able to communicate effectively. I also saw many Deaf patients who recounted horror stories of well meaning but unqualified ASL Interpreters who either gave them or reported misinformation. I still chat with Deaf people who tell me their doctor said XYZ about a medical condition that's blatantly inaccurate and born out of miscommunication. Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing people are not in a position of power to demand qualified ASL Interpreters. When faced with doing what's right or defaulting to what's easy, organizations often choose the later. As a body of power, the Oregon Legislature does have the ability to protect this marginalized community. It's a matter of equity, it's a matter of doing the right thing for your constituents who can't do this for themselves. I implore you to pass this Bill. Thank you.