



March 1, 2021

Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Sanchez, and the Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health Care,

On behalf of Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD), My name is Steven M Brown, and I am here to write the testimony as Vice President.

Over 186,000 Oregonians are living with hearing loss. Hearing loss is an “invisible” disability. It is easily overlooked, and underserved. Oregonians with hearing loss are underserved. For years, they have been unable to receive direct communication access and health care services from state agencies, non-profit organizations, and private practice practitioners because those agencies do not know how to obtain appropriate accommodation services. The creation of a Health Care Registry will remove such confusion for the Health Care providers to receive appropriate referrals for necessary accommodation services.

Basically, I believe this House Bill (HB) 2359 will help to remove such barriers in obtaining appropriate accommodation services especially when health care providers receive the referrals from the Health Care Registry administrated by Oregon Health Authority (OHA). In short, HB 2359 will begin to remove those barriers.

Please support House Bill 2359 with “**to-pass**” recommendation.

Sincerely,


Steven M Brown, MA, LMHC, NCC
Vice President of Oregon Association of the Deaf
2314 SE Brooklyn Street
Portland, Oregon 97202

cc: Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.
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