



Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.

www.oad1921.org

PO Box 8054, Salem, Oregon 97303

(Incorporated 1921)

February 7, 2022

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

Dear the Honorable Chairperson Senator Taylor, and the Vice Chairperson Senator Knopp, and the Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

My name is Steven M Brown, the President of Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD). I am here to support **SB 1562** on behalf of OAD and for myself, as well as for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing community as whole.

As President, I wholeheartedly support SB 1562 with no objections or amendments. I have seen so many unqualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters work with Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians in many situations. I have received so many complaints that the ASL interpreters are unqualified and “unchecked” – especially with no accountability for what they do in the interpreting situations. I believe SB 1562 will carry the accountability for the ASL interpreters, ensuring that they are indeed qualified to interpret in specific situations.

Additionally, there are several other states that implement such state licensure requirements for ASL interpreters to practice in their respective states. I urge you all on this Senate Committee on Labor and Business **to pass with the recommendation.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime by email address which is oad1921@gmail.com. You can also reach me by the phone which is (253) 501-4858 anytime should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for considering on SB 1562 and listening other testimonies in which I believe they support this legislation.

Sincerely,


Steven M Brown, MA, MPA, LMHC, LPC, NCC
OAD President
Licensed Mental Health Counselor (Washington)
Licensed Professional Counselor (Oregon)