

Adam Logan, Secretary  
Oregon Association of the Deaf  
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Committee Chair Nosse  
900 Court St NE, H-472  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice chair Goodwin, Vice chair Nelson, and committee members.

This Bill protects the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities by establishing a licensure requirement for Sign Language interpreters. Currently in Oregon, anyone can legally represent themselves as a Sign Language interpreter whether or not they are qualified and provide services in settings such as emergency press-conferences, drug treatment facilities, or attorney-client meetings. This results in unqualified or unethical interpreting services, violating the rights of Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians and potentially causing great harm to consumers. Along with the risk to the consumers, hiring entities such as government agencies are at risk of lawsuits if they hire interpreters who are unqualified. Licensure will establish standards for the profession, as well as protect consumers and hiring entities by requiring licensure to work as a Sign Language interpreter in Oregon. Over 30 states have established such requirements for Sign Language interpreters and the passing of this bill would ensure Oregon is in line with national best practices.

The Oregon Association of the Deaf voted unanimously to support this legislation and we urge you to see this bill through the legislature process to become law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Adam Logan*

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