

Adam Logan, Secretary
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Feb 8, 2023

Senator Gelser
900 Court St NE, S-211,
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Committee Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Robinson, and Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 685 regarding the clean-up of the term Communication Facilitator (CF).

The proposed bill clarifies the scope of service for Communication Facilitators (CFs), limiting it to deaf individuals with additional disabilities impeding communication. Without the bill, deaf individuals with full communication capabilities would continue to be eligible for CF service, putting a strain on limited resources.

CFs, who are usually native signers with strong receptive skills, act as a bridge for communication between deaf individuals with expressive communication challenges and other parties using sign language, mail, email, or web conferences, etc.

An example of the target recipients for CF services is a deaf person with cerebral palsy. Conventional accommodations like Video Relay Service are ineffective for them, and a CF is needed for successful communication. The deaf person with cerebral palsy may understand the interpreter, but the interpreter is unlikely to understand their sign language.

The Oregon Association of the Deaf has unanimously voted to support this bill and we urge you to vote in favor of SB 685. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Logan
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