

As a culturally Deaf person I support the HB 2359 bill to protect sign language interpreters' and Deaf/Hard of Hearing patients' rights. I've seen several medical centers try to obtain cheap interpreting service by using remote video interpreting service instead of onsite interpreting service. The remote video interpreting service has provided random and available interpreters with no health care experience. Most of Deaf/Hard of Hearing patients don't speak or write proficiently in English. Their proficient language is sign language, and they require high qualified interpreters to have efficient communication with health care providers. We have study findings to show that the use of professional interpreters with health care experience has raised quality of health care for limited English proficiency patients, and it has also reduced communication and comprehension errors. The errors have resulted in the majority of adverse effects in patients. I strongly encourage you to support the HB 2359 bill to protect hundreds of thousands of limited English proficiency patients' well-being. Thank you for your time and thoughts to support the HB 2359 bill.