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**2021 • SB 5529**

**Testimony on behalf of  
the Deaf, DeafBlind, and  
Hard of Hearing.**

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW, ADAC, OHCI, DI  
April 2021

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# Transparency

**Director,** Research & Resource Center with Deaf\* community (RRCD), Western Oregon University (WOU)

**Executive Director,** Bridges Oregon, Inc.

**Former employee,** Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)

**Freelance Interpreter,** Oregon

**Lobbyist,** Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD) & Oregon Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf (ORID)

*Source: [www.chadaludwig.com](http://www.chadaludwig.com)*



# Demographic

The CDC says the national study shows 1 in 4 American have hearing loss.

The study shows the number of 1,058,068 individuals are living with hearing loss in Oregon.

Approx. 4,021 individuals uses sign language to communicate in the state of Oregon.

# Demographic (con't)

Oregon Department of Education report over 1,450 children with hearing loss are in K-12 school system.

Helen Keller National Center report over 300 DeafBlind Oregonians are listed in their national registry.

Oregon Early Hearing Detection & Intervention report an average of 100 babies are born in Oregon with hearing loss annually.

## ODHHS limitation

- Ensure state agency program is accessible to deaf and hard of hearing
- Coordinate and schedule effective communication and accommodation services for state agency programs.
- Consult with the ODHHS Advisory Committee



## DHS limitation

- Lack of centralized data with representation of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing consumers receiving continuum services from DHS.
- Lack of centralized resources to work with Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing children and families in child welfare and foster care programs.



# Legislative Efforts

- Governor Brown priority bid
- ODHS policy option package (POP)
- Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB)
- SB 724
- HB 3146

House Bill 3230

House Bill 2053

Senate Bill 1018a

Senate Bill 1023a



2005

2007

2009

2015

2017

2019

2021

House Bill 2881a

Senate Bill 449a

Senate Bill 795

Community-based  
Needs Assessment (CNA)

# Community-based Needs Assessment

The purpose of this project was to identify for DHS and the Legislature the barriers that make it difficult for members of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing communities to successfully engage in social, educational, and health services and to make recommendations for closing any gaps.



Community-Based Needs Assessment of Oregon's  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities:  
Final Report

Lead Investigator: Denise Thew Hackett, Ph.D, M.S.C.I.  
Co-Investigator: Cheryl D. Davis, Ph.D.  
Data Analyst: Sybille Guy, Ph.D.

12/30/2016

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DHS Interagency Agreement #131333 (DHS-4131-16)  
Willam Oregon University  
Regional Resource Center on Deafness

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Oregon is **one of twelve western states** without service.

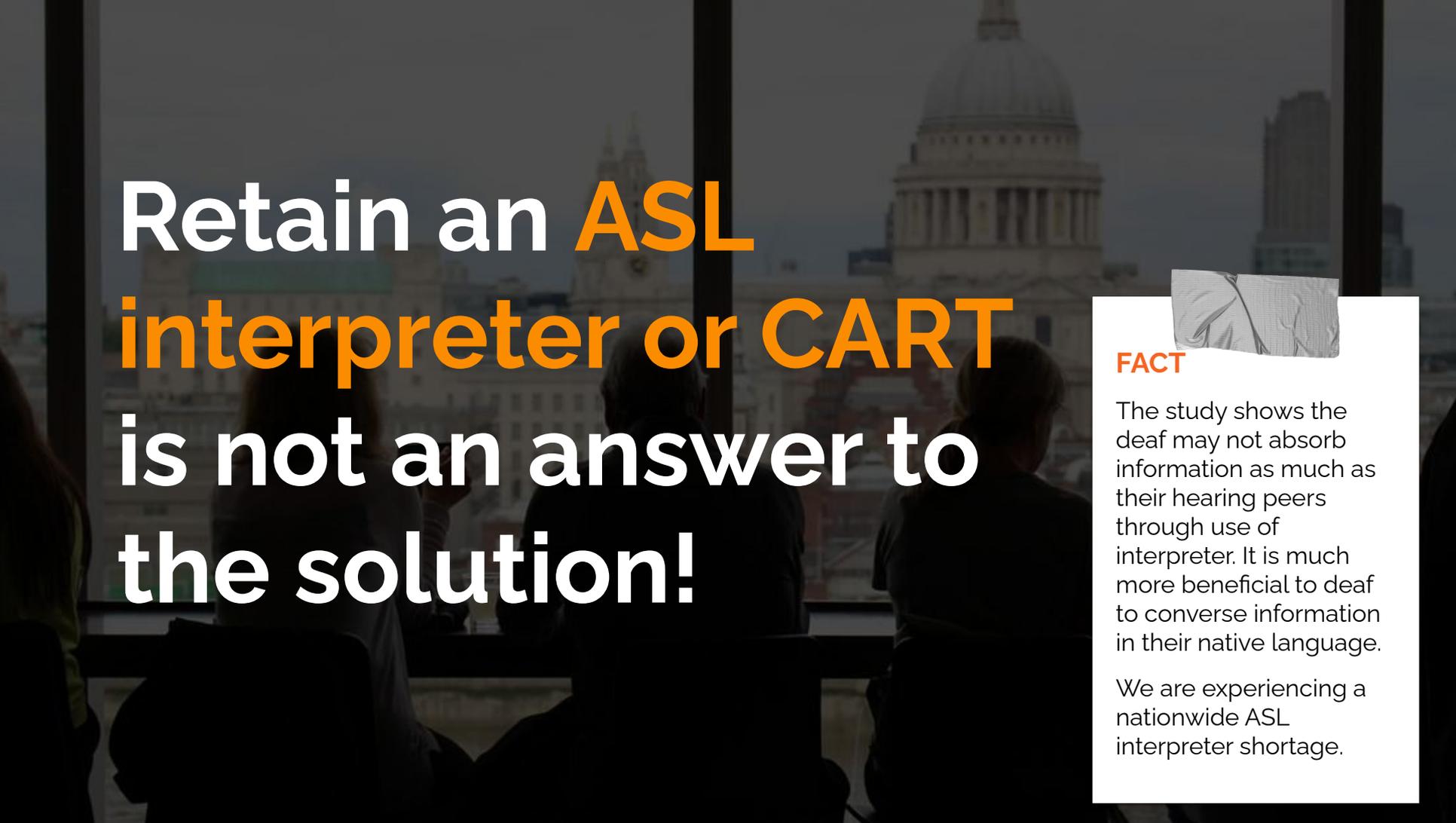




# Services

There is no culturally appropriate services available in Oregon, they are:

- **Advocacy** i.e., public entity, medical, legal, etc.
- **Adult/Community Education**
- **ASL / protactile Document Translation**
- **Client Assistance**
- **Co-Navigation with DeafBlind/Deaf-blind**
- **Counseling**
- **Employment**
- **Equipment Training**
- **Low cost or free sign language and/or protactile classes for parents**
- **Mental Health**
- **Inmate transition into community**
- **Services to Hard of Hearing**
- **Senior Citizens Services**
- **Substance and alcohol abuse**
- **...and many more.**



Retain an **ASL**  
**interpreter or CART**  
is not an answer to  
the solution!



**FACT**

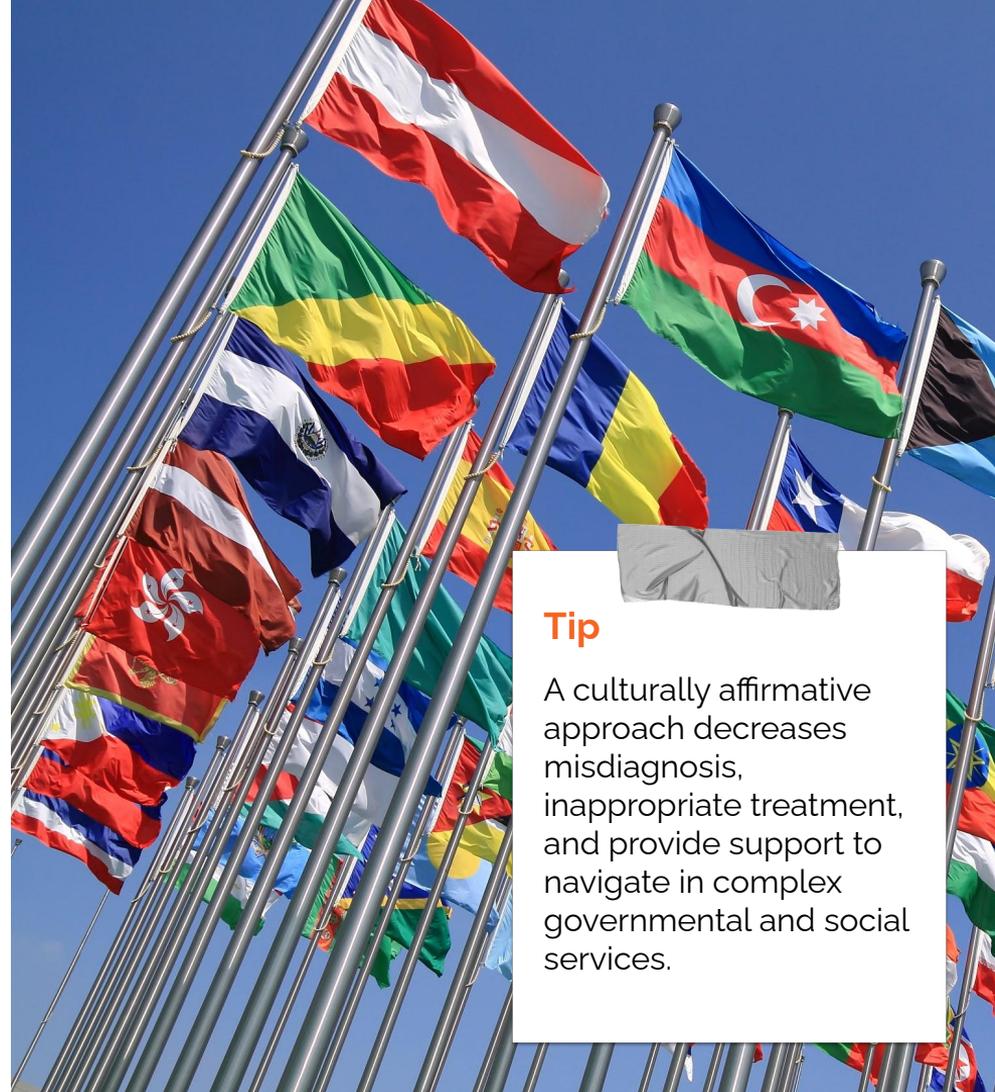
The study shows the deaf may not absorb information as much as their hearing peers through use of interpreter. It is much more beneficial to deaf to converse information in their native language.

We are experiencing a nationwide ASL interpreter shortage.

To provide the linguistically and culturally appropriate service is to have a direct communication with provider in your language and in a mode of

**communication that is accessible**

to you is almost always preferred.



**Tip**  
A culturally affirmative approach decreases misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment, and provide support to navigate in complex governmental and social services.



## **Congratulations!**

On Dec 4th, Bridges Oregon and Oregon Dept of Justice (ODOJ) entered a \$350,000 / 3-years grant agreement.

The grant cycle is from Jan 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2023 to provide service to Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Victims of Crime (VOCA).

Est. 2017 • **Bridges Oregon, Inc.** is a nonprofit for Oregonians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing or face other communication barriers. It is in our mission to facilitate equity, inclusiveness and provide a bridge to opportunities through advocacy, education and communication.

[www.bridgesoregon.org](http://www.bridgesoregon.org)

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**funding**



## HB 3146...

- The program shall..
- Clarify the ODHHS abilities in serving the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities
- Clarify the ODHHS advisory committee



## Need to add...

- **ODHHS Advisory Committee to have the ability to discuss about any legislative issues that affects the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities.**
- **Support Service Provider (SSP Service) aka known as co-navigation service for individuals who are DeafBlind/Deaf-Blind and Deaf with additional disabilities (e.g., mobility limitation).**

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HB 3146 is the **first step** in addressing the **overdue needs** of Oregonians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing.

Please vote to  
amend languages  
from HB 3146 in  
SB 5529.

**Thank you!**

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