

February 10, 2021
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Sanchez, and the Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health Care,

I support the passage of House Bill 2585. The State of Oregon suffers from a chronic need for provision of access to communication and education to Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians with mental health needs. These services would make the lives of this population functionally equivalent to that of the rest of Oregon's citizens. Currently Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians with mental health needs are disadvantaged by structural barriers that HB 2585 would begin to remove.

Supporting HB 2585 is an opportunity for Oregon's leadership to empower Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing by granting access to the functionally equivalent mental health services that they deserve.

Sincerely,

Rikki Redhead
85 Lynnbrook Drive
Eugene, Oregon 97404

cc: Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.
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