



**Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

[www.oad1921.org](http://www.oad1921.org)

PO Box 8054, Salem, Oregon 97303

*(Incorporated 1921)*

January 27, 2023

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2696, the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear the Honorable Chairperson Nosse, Vice-Chairperson Goodwin, Vice-Chairperson Nelson, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Steven M Brown, the President of Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD). I am here to support **HB2696** on behalf of OAD and for myself, as well as for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing community as whole.

As President, I wholeheartedly support HB 2696 with no objections or amendments. I have seen so many unqualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters work with Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians in many situations. I have received so many complaints that the ASL interpreters are unqualified and “unchecked” – especially with no accountability for what they do in the interpreting situations. I believe HB 2696 will carry the accountability for the ASL interpreters, ensuring that they are indeed qualified to interpret in specific situations.

Additionally, there are several other states that implement such state licensure requirements for ASL interpreters to practice in their respective states. I urge you all on this Senate Committee on Labor and Business **to pass with the recommendation.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime by email address which is [oad1921@gmail.com](mailto:oad1921@gmail.com). You can also reach me by the phone which is (253) 501-4858 anytime should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for considering HB 2696 and listening other testimonies in which I believe they support this legislation.



Steven M Brown, MA, MPA, LMHC, LPC, NCC  
OAD President  
Licensed Mental Health Counselor (Washington)  
Licensed Professional Counselor (Oregon)