



# Representative Bobby Levy

*Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties*

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright and other members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, state representative for House District 58. I am testifying today to express my support for House Bill 2669.

Oregon is making strides in support of our neighbors in the deaf and hard of hearing community. The Department of Motor Vehicles provides special accommodations for deaf drivers who call 7-1-1, and our state drivers licenses can include a designation for hearing disabilities. Most of our legislative hearings include ASL interpretation, and local governments are mandated to provide this service at public meetings on request. We can always do more, and that is why I am excited to co-sponsor this bill.

The National Association of the Deaf names 17 States who have enacted a Deaf Children's Bill of Rights. States as different as California and Texas recognize that children with hearing disabilities are born with the same ability to acquire language as any other children, and deserve the same chance to acquire language. While this bill will not impact most of the 8,000 Oregonians who identify as deaf and hard of hearing, this bill secures education rights for the next generation of Beaver State residents with hearing disabilities. I urge the Committee to send this bill to the House Floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58