

Submitter: Rian Gayle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB569

Hi,

My name is Rian Gayle, A Black Deaf advocate living in Salem for nearly 10 years. I am the chairperson of Bridges Oregon's board. I am writing this testimony in support of the SB 569 bill. As an advocate I successfully advocated for the passing of the closed captioning ordinance in the city of Salem which requires business places to turn on the caption. Salem joined many other cities that already passed similar ordinances and became a more inclusive city for people with disabilities.

This is important not only because it provides access for people who need it but it helps me and others like me who identify within 1-3 diversity groups to feel like we are being heard and humanized. It's hard to feel any humanity towards oneself when there are so many barriers everywhere. I have worked with the city of Salem in the past to fight for access to many events and public places and it can be very exhausting. Having this bill passed and implemented would make life a lot easier for us.

Another important thing to know is that this bill doesn't only assist those with hearing disabilities but also assists many others with other kinds of disabilities, whether documented or not, who rely on closed caption as an accommodation of some sort. This would put the number of people that this bill will assist, in the millions.

Millions rely on closed captions to be able to survive in life and also as a safety precaution. Safety for everyone should come at the cost of comfort for another which tends to be the opposing argument. In cases where barriers, which I am struggling to think of, might rise, it can easily be solved and accessibility for that barrier can be overlapped with the closed caption. Please pass SB 569. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rian Gayle (He/Him/They)
Advocate