

Submitter: Julie Weismann

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

RE: Amend HB5206 to increase or reallocate funds

Chairs Sen. Winsvey Campos and Rep. Andrea Valderrarna, and members of the committee:

My name is Julie Weismann, and I am the Executive Director of the Hope & Safety Alliance, formerly Womenspace. We are in Eugene and serve Lane County.

We noticed that the funding allocations in HB 5206 provides assistance for many essential services to help providers address the critical needs in our community – thank you!.

However, we also noticed there were not any funds specifically allocated to serve the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians.

Language access is huge barrier, this is especially so for folks with hearing or sight challenges. For victims of domestic and sexual violence these barriers are often exploited by abusers and even when fleeing they face possible revictimization. Having immediate access to language services is essential.

An allocation of \$500,000 would go far to increase these services. My agency, as well as others, would benefit greatly from the providers accessing these funds; giving them much needed capacity to provide staffing and resources for technical assistance within the state.

We humbly urge you to consider an increase of funds to, or to reallocate funds within HB 5026 to provide critical infrastructure for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing providers in Oregon.

Thank you for working to keep victims and Oregonians safe!