

Adam Logan, Secretary
Oregon Association of the Deaf
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Feb 14, 2023

Committee Chairs Campos & Valderrama
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairs Campos, Chair Valderrama, and committee members,

I am writing to request an amendment for HB 5026 Financial Administration of the Department of Human Services. I write this letter representing the Oregon Association of the Deaf, we are a non-profit charity organization with a mission to protect and promote the civil rights of the deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, and deaf with additional disabilities. Linguistically and culturally sensitive services in Oregon for our community lag far behind compared to our neighbors Washington and California.

I am writing to request a minimum of \$500,000 allocation written into this bill including written authorization to the Oregon Department of Human Services to contract out the work and fund linguistically and culturally sensitive services for Oregonians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing.

This will empower the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing community, create professional jobs, and save the state and services money in the long term when our communities are better educated and equipped with effective solutions leading to better outcomes, and by reducing the need for expensive interpretation services. The burden of acquiring accommodations and the unreliable quality and skill of ASL interpreters makes many in our community prefer to avoid services provided by the hearing altogether. By allocating funds and authorizing payment of funds to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing service providers to do the work would meet the mandate of providing linguistically and culturally sensitive services to our communities which heretofore have been neglected and underserved.

Our community needs the funds to get started providing services. \$500,000 is enough for a pilot program essentially. Give our community a chance at empowerment, let us show you that we can and want to help ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Logan

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Oregon Association of the Deaf

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