

March 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Audrey Loudenback and I am a Sign Language interpreter who resides in Salem, Oregon.

I'm writing to ask you to support SB950. This bill clarifies and streamlines the licensure law that was created during the 2023 session for sign language interpreters in Oregon. The rule-making process has highlighted areas where the statute created redundancies and confusion, and others that left critical gaps, such as an on-ramping process for new interpreters entering the field. The goal of licensure is to protect the rights of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians, but as written, it is derailing that goal and causing harm. The amendments put forth in SB 950 will get us back on track.

I have been working in the field in the Salem, Oregon area for 15 years and believe that licensure is needed to ensure some minimal qualifications for those working as professional interpreters, not only for the safety for our consumers, but also for the integrity of those of us who are serious about our training, ethical practices, and credentialing. The way the initial bill was drafted was a good first step but during the past year the HLO licensing board has been unable to make the modifications needed to make this license more accessible and affordable. The amendments in SB 960 are needed for us to move forward with this process.

I respectfully ask you to support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Amendment Bill (SB 950) to save time, money, and confusion for the state and for interpreters to improve our ability to protect and serve the rights of Oregon's Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing citizens.

Sincerely,
Audrey Loudenback
565 Harbortown Ct SE
Salem, OR 97306