

March 11 2025

The Honorable Vikki Breese Iverson
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear Representative Breese Iverson:

My name is Harllee Noda and I am a Sign Language interpreter who resides in your district.

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.

As an interpreter in a rural area, it has been a constant worry of how we will be able to grow our interpreting department as the demand for our service in this area grows. By supporting SB950, you will be supporting new interpreters entering the field, and ensuring the students in your district are receiving the services they need, allowing access to their education. In our amazing community, we have a strong but mighty group of interpreters who are passionate about their work and want to expand out from one area of interpreting (medical, legal, education, community) to another, but without the support of SB950 this will be difficult. Also allowing our community members to receive the services they deserve, as is their right.

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,
Harllee M Noda
4501 Lone Pine Rd.
Redmond, Oregon 97756