

March 11, 2025

Anthony Broadman  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear Senator Broadman:

My name is Natalie Smith 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.

This issue is important to me as I just moved to Oregon from Buffalo, NY. The licensing process has been long, expensive, as well as confusing. Your support of SB950 could change and simplify this process for new individuals entering the state and field.

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,  
Natalie Smith  
2537 NW 22nd St  
Redmond, OR, 97756