

Submitter: Mylisa Harper  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB950  
March 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike McLane and Vikki Breese  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear Senator Mike McLane and Representative Vikki Breese:

My name is Mylisa Harper 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 very important to me. As someone who works with a population that regularly experiences a lack of access to things others take for granted it is very important to be to protect their rights to make sure they are getting equal access to everything they need. Choosing to not support SB950 would be detrimental to these vulnerable communities.

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,

Mylisa Harper  
370 NE Hillcrest St

Madras OR 97741