

Submitter: Kathleen Wallace Golding  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB950

The Honorable Representative Lucetta Elmer  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Elmer,

My name is Kathleen Wallace Golding. I am a working sign language interpreter here in Oregon (since 1984), and, as a resident of McMinnville, reside in your district. I hold 2 national certifications and support the addition of state-level licensure in Oregon, however, the current state of the sign language interpreter licensure process is in dire need of clarification for all of the stakeholders.

I respectfully ask that you fully support the proposed changes to Oregon's Interpreter licensure program outlined in SB950. There was so much confusion in the field with the rollout of the original procedures, I fear its complexities caused some of the area's most experienced interpreters to throw up their hands (so to speak) in frustration. I can only imagine the confusion in the (government & private) agencies tasked with scheduling interpreters, the clients requesting timely accommodations, and the state agencies tasked with implementing the new standards.

SB950 streamlines the licensure process, suggests much needed adjustments in specialized certificates, tightens up the fee structure, and widens the frame to clarify credentialing & supervision for those just entering the field. These proposed changes will bring much needed clarity and relief to myself and many of my certified colleagues with whom I've discussed it. We all walk parallel paths to obtaining &/or maintaining national certifications; the simplification of the state processes is a welcome and timely adjustment.

SB 950 will simplify, strengthen, & stabilize the Oregon state sign language interpreter licensure procedures, and I respectfully ask for your support of it. Implementation of its proposed changes will provide much needed clarity, and your unique contribution as a state Legislator will help ensure interpreters, agencies, educators, and employers have the professional quality assurances they need to protect and serve the rights of Oregon's Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians.

Thank you for your time, vision, and attention to this proposal.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Wallace Golding, CI & CT  
637 Keck Dr. Suite 125  
McMinnville, OR. 97128