

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear Representatives and Senators:

My name is Andrea Hamilton and I am a Sign Language Interpreter who resides and works in 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.

As an interpreter in both freelance and educational settings, I see how having clear Oregon Sign Language Interpreter licensure will provide a minimum requirement to protect the rights of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians by improving the quality of interpreters they have access to.

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,

Andrea Hamilton