

Submitter: Elspeth Liermann
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB950

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 bill is important to me because it will help protect those who need interpretive services. I care about this issue because every human deserves the right to communicate and to understand clearly what is going on in a given situation. I am thankful Oregon started this process by creating the licensure law and now hope you will support these amendments that were created by interpreters and deaf people.

I respectfully ask you to support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure 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.