

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

May 5th, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support the Oregon Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dear Legislators:

My name is Lydia Pickard and I live in Tigard. I have been a professional interpreter in Oregon since 2009 working in various settings including medical, legal, government, post-secondary education, and others. I have also taught in the Interpreter Training Program at Portland Community College since 2019.

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 some areas where the statute created redundancies and confusion, and other areas 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. It creates confusion, hardship, and further exacerbates the serious interpreter shortage that we are experiencing across our state in all settings in which we work. The amendments put forth in SB 950 will get us back on track.

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.

Sincerely,
Lydia Pickard