

Mr. Justin Coleman

March 11, 2015

Senator Sara Gelsler, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Childhood
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Sara Gelsler,

My name is Justin Coleman and I reside in Dallas Oregon and I am citizen of Oregon. I am member of Oregon Associations of the Deaf.

I am writing you to in support this Senate Bill 449. The State of Oregon suffers from a chronic need for provision of access to communication, advocacy, and educational and employment services to Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals. These services would make the lives of this population functionally equivalent to that of the rest of Oregon's citizens. Currently Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals are disadvantaged by structural barriers that SB 449 would begin to remove

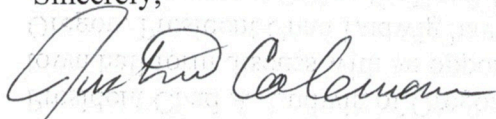
I have attended to a town hall form at Portland State University on January 17, 2015 to meet with President Chad A. Ludwig of Oregon Association of the Deaf and the members of OAD. This town hall form discuss with an opportunity to ask questions about current issues in the state of Oregon. President Chad Ludwig have announce and shared about the Senate Bill 449 seek to create a permanent Office for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Services (ODDBHHS). I have learned that state of Oregon does not have statewide cultural and linguistic competency standards of service to Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals and how incidental barriers to communicational access and service access were high. While other states provide an office of a place where they know to contact for service. Oregon State do not have a place as a home for the services to the communities. This is difficult for me to locate the service.

I like to urge you to vote yes on SB 449, which would provide an opportunity for Oregon's leadership to empower Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing by granting access to the functionally equivalent services that they deserve.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would make a home for a permanent Office for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Services (ODDBHHS).

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,



Justin Coleman

cc: Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.