

The Hon. Sara Gelser,
Chairwoman before the Senate Committee
on Health Care and Early Childhood
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **SB 449**

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,

My name is Ishai Rosen and my wife's name is Lior Azen. We currently reside in Corvallis, OR. I moved to Oregon in 1998 for an engineering position with HP where I am currently employed. My wife, Lior Azen, moved to Oregon in 2005 from Israel and she is employed as a mental health therapist with Connection Program in Salem, OR. We have both been Deaf since birth.

We would like to write you regarding a proposed Senate Bill 449 that will form a permanent Office for Deaf, Deaf Blind, and Hard of Hearing Service in the State of Oregon. We feel it is very important to have the Office that will serve and benefit around 200,000 deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Oregon. Oregon currently does not have the Office, as 38 other states already have created it.

Below is a list of some benefits of having the Office in the State of Oregon:


- Office will help to assist individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in rehabilitation and employment and about laws prohibiting discrimination in the workforce.
- Office will help clients who are deaf and hard of hearing with job application preparation, interview skills, job placements and unemployment issues.
- Office will help deaf and hard of hearing gain communication access equal to people who can hear. Also to protect their right to have access to education, employment, public services, health and safety programs.
- Office will provide resources on deafness, referrals, sign language interpreting, and mental health counselling services

We are in full support of SB 449 and we are asking that the Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Childhood votes a Do Pass this Bill on to the full Legislative Body.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


Ishai Rosen


Lior Azen