



February 1, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Oregon do not have statewide cultural and linguistic competency service serving to the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals. The service includes case management, mental health counseling, advocacy, community outreach, education & training, information & referral, interpreting and communication service, and support service provider for the DeafBlind. The incidence of barrier to having an access to communication and service is critical high.

Senate Bill 449 seeks to create a permanent Office for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Services (ODDBHHS). This bill asks the Department of Human Services (DHS) to require that social services be provided for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians statewide. This agency will benefit over 186,000 Oregonians with hearing losses who are in need for service.

**FACT:** The current state law 410.740, the DHS is not require the provision of services, even if their advisory committee recommends the implementation of such programs for those who may need assistance.

Recently in 2014, the OAD legislative committee met with Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson who agreed to be a chief sponsor of this important bill. For this, we do need your help! Your support letters will be greatly appreciated, and help the Legislature to finally streamline the quality of life for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing community in the great state of Oregon!

Please write a support letter and/or let us know if you are interested in testifying before the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood committee. (I can provide a template support letter as an example, to be used as necessary. If you need one, please let me know.)

Any and all such correspondence should be addressed right here

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Please send a copy of letters to the address below or email to [steven.social58@gmail.com](mailto:steven.social58@gmail.com).

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Legislative Committee  
Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
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Please use the letterhead of an organization you represent. Email me all questions or concerns about such correspondence, as your support for Senate Bill 449 is invaluable, and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Brown, MPA, MA  
Legislative Chair

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW  
President

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