

March 4, 2015

Senator Sara Gelser
Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Children
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sara Gelser:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 449. This bill encourages the Department of Human Services to establish a permanent office for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing to provide advocacy we need in Oregon.

I am Howard Hammel. I am deaf since birth due to exposure of measles. I am resident of Oregon since 1989. I have had many challenges throughout my life. Some I succeed. Some I am still struggling. I wish there were more comprehensive services available to me. Many other Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians need services also. The services we need include health education, quality of sign language interpreters, aging support, counseling, mental health, and so on. These would benefit us greatly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please support SB 449!

Sincerely,



Howard Hammel

Cc: Oregon Association of the Deaf
Senator Diana Rosenbaum