



February 16, 2015

The Honorable Sara Gesler, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Childhood
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 449

Dear Senator Gesler,

On behalf of ZVRS, we support Oregon Association of the Deaf's legislative efforts to create the Office for Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Services in the State of Oregon. This bill will create opportunities for many deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing Oregonians, who require equal access to government services, education, employment, and advocacy services.

Currently there is no dedicated social service agency provided for deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing citizens statewide. ZVRS has been part of the national effort to serve this underserved population and strongly believes that this Senate Bill 449 will ensure that all of Oregon's citizens are treated equally.

Sincerely,

Sean Belanger
Chief Executive Officer