

January 28, 2015

RE: SB 449

Dear Senator Sara Gelsler;

My name is George Scheler and I live in Albany, Oregon. I have been Deaf since the age of 12 and am now 73 years old.

When I was President of the Oregon Association of the Deaf many years ago. I asked Rep. Steve March to move the Deaf program that was under the Disability Commission out of there Commission as they were using 70% of our funds to run their programs. The Legislators passed the Bill and moved us under DHS. I was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to this program. As time went on and we kept getting sit backs from DHS Administration. The DHS Administration then decided to disband the Advisory Committee.

Oregon has no State, County or City offices that can serve all the needs of Oregon's Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing in their native language. Many State, County and City offices have other language speaking people to help those who need it on a moments notice.

Now that we have SB 449 to bring this committee and program back to where we wanted it to be years ago.

I am in full support of SB 449 and I am ask that your Senate Committee on Health Care and Early Childhood votes a Do Pass this Bill on to the full Legislative Body .

Sincerely,

George Scheler