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"Speech is the birthright of every child." -- Helen Keller

The Tucker Maxon School
2880 SE Holgate Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97202-3658
www.tuckermaxon.org



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

February 10, 2015

Dear Senator Gelser,

We would like to take the opportunity to write to you in support of Senate Bill 449. SB 449 is a legislative bill currently being introduced by Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson. This bill encourages the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide mandated services for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians.

Currently, ORS 410.740 does not require the DHS to provide services, even if it is advised by its own advisory committee to implement such programs for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians. We think DHS should be required to provide those services.

We have a few personal reasons why we would like to see DHS provide services. We run a school for deaf and hard of hearing children in Portland called Tucker-Maxon. Linda has been a Teacher of the Deaf for over 28 years. As a Teacher of the Deaf she is aware of the specific needs of this community. These services are urgently needed by our students and your constituents. Please let us know if you would like to visit the school. We would be pleased to provide you a tour and discuss SB 449 further.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Glen Gilbert in black ink.

Glen Gilbert
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Linda Goodwin in black ink.

Linda Goodwin MSc, LSLC Cert. AVEEd
Principal

CC: Oregon Association of the Deaf (OAD)