

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

January 30, 2015

Dear Senator Gelser,

Hello, my name Dene Lynn Scott, I am culturally Deaf. I would like to take the opportunity to write this letter and support SB 449. SB 449 is a legislative bill that is introduced by Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, and it encourages the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide mandated services for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians.

Currently, ORS 410.740 does not require DHS to provide services even if it is advised by the advisory committee to implement programs for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Oregonians. I would like DHS to be required to provide services. Here are some reasons why I would like DHS to provide and, because of that, I believe we will have better results if we receive services.

I wholeheartedly support SB 449. The reason I urge you to vote “Yes” on SB 449 is because I saw doors for services actually open and available due to the existence of the Deaf and hard of hearing commission. They provide a wonderful service for the communities of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind populations.

While I lived in Missouri, there were deaf people living in rural areas and they had a hard time to get access for their needs and services. The Missouri commission educated these small rural communities about needs of the Deaf and hard of hearing people. I also lived in Jacksonville, IL, and I taught at Quincy University in Quincy, IL. I invited Illinois Deaf, Hard of Hearing Commission to present information regarding services. The small Deaf community in Quincy didn't know about what the Commission could do to help - until this presentation.

I believe Oregon should pursue to establish a permanent ODDBHH statewide office. It is very important to educate and provide accessibility services – especially for the hospitals, interpreting agencies, employers, and other relevant information to the opportunity for involvement.

Thank you for your time to read this letter. I strongly support SB 449! Please support SB 449!

Sincerely,  
Dene Lynn Scott  
OAD Board Member  
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