

**Sandra Kelly**

I have been Executive Director of the Deaf Cultural Center, located in Olathe, Kansas, since 2008.

[The Deaf Cultural Center is the only public museum of Deaf History and Deaf Culture in the United States - which means we are not affiliated with an educational institution like the many other Deaf museums throughout the country.]

Who am I and why am I testifying?

I have been involved with the Deaf community for over 40 years:

- I was a teacher of the Deaf for seventeen years;
- An administrator at a school for the Deaf for eight years;
- A member of an educational outreach assessment team for three years;
- And community liaison between a school for the Deaf and a local community for six years.

My educational background has provided insight on the importance of assessment tools as a means of tracking progress and gaining the data to make change.

**I am speaking in support of SB444**

Because:

- Assessment tools provide a measurement of data and statistics for *objective information* rather than assumptions and guess work.
- As the adage goes, "Doing what you've always done, you'll get what you've always had." Perhaps it's time for a change in the lives of our Deaf children. But it's going to be difficult to make that *change if we don't know where we are starting*.
- Through my many years in the educational field I have seen and heard a lot of misunderstanding, misinformation, and incredulous statements that have been provided without any kind of factual basis or statistics. As professionals in this field, it would behoove us to "do our homework" and share fact, not assumption with the parents of our students.