

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT FOR SB 444
ANN C. COOPER
MARCH 8, 2016

My name is Ann Cooper.

I am the 20th President of Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) since 2007, a statewide non-profit organization. KAD was established in 1909, and is now 107 years old.

Kansas has approximately 30,000 individuals that have severe hearing loss that affects their daily life.¹ When this bill came out, so many of our deaf members contact me telling me how important this bill is and asked for my help because they struggled with figuring out how to write emails of support this bill due to their language deprivations.

I stand with the Kansans regarding SB 444 bill. I see our Deaf and Hard of Hearing children going through having their language deprived at the early age continuously. Need our solutions is to have this bill as an act to create language assessment program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, to end the crisis of language deprivation. This bill is very important to keep track of numbers of language development for our children to be the kindergarten-ready at the school in the equivalent to the hearing children. This bill will help improve the lives of all deaf and hard of hearing children, including ours and yours!

Please vote "YES" on SB 444.

Thank you

Ann C. Cooper
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¹. According to Proclamation by the Governor, signed by Sam Brownback, dated February 26, 2016