

I would like to to give my testimony to support SB 444 on Tuesday, March 8.

I am a proud parent of a Deaf child and I support this bill because my daughter was very fortunate to have had access and support to develop strong American Sign Language skills, although not until she was 4 years old. I watched her struggle with reading and writing during her elementary years, day after day. However because of her hard work, great teachers and mentors, she's now on par with other students who are able to hear. In fact, she's a straight A student with a split schedule between the Kansas School for the Deaf and our local public high school. She's now in her third year of Honors English classes in public school and will be adding an Honors class in Computer Science next year to her schedule. I believe that a strong American Sign Language foundation, her first language, was key to her success in overcoming those early obstacles.

Thank you,

Cynthia L. Taylor