

I am unable to attend, but below is my testimony in support of SB444.

Thank you,
Samuel Sanders

When you give birth to your child, hold him, feed him, but don't converse to his babbling face. When you raise your child, play with him, clothe him, but don't teach him the words to the things that populate life. Then send him out into the world. Would you, as a parent, do this?

This is the reality many Deaf children encounter in their life journey. From birth they are denied the most basic and vital of tools to navigate our world: language. They live, but in limbo, in constant struggle, chained down by the very thing that should have given them wings.

There are people who are born to the road less taken, and it is our responsibility to accept and embrace, with compassion, the unique challenges faced by them. It is our responsibility to give them wings when they most need it.

SB 444 will provide Deaf children with the means of acquiring language as soon as they are born. SB 444 will ensure that Deaf children are not left behind when they enter Kindergarten. It ensures a future of functional, self-fulfilling, confident adults who want to contribute to a society that found them worthy of respect and admiration.

Thank you.