

Dear Senate Education Committee:

Hello, my name is Lorelee Plummer, and I am mother of three deaf children. I support this bill SB444 because my daughter is currently enrolled at Early Childhood Center at Kansas School for the Deaf. I noticed most kids at her age, and their languages are severely delayed. Kansas School for the deaf is currently dealing with a huge influx of deaf children with language deprivation. My daughter is often used as their language model to other deaf kids. My daughter's language is not on par with her peers. It is very frustrating to see like this. Could you imagine how many deaf pre-school kids are out there in Kansas? Who are the accountability? I challenge and would like to invite you to dig further information about what the influx of deaf children to Kansas School for the Deaf and their languages look like.

There is another reason I support this bill is because I have met several upset parents of very young deaf kids, especially in the rural area. They expressed their concerns about the service for their deaf children's language, especially in American Sign Language. Where are their service in American Sign Language?

Sincerely,

Lorelee Plummer