

Dear Cyndie Rexer and Senate Education Committee members

I represent as Certified Deaf Interpreter, deaf service coordinator for community college, and parent of child with special needs

I am member of Kansas Association of the Deaf and advisory committee for Kansas School for the Deaf.

As Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) and interpreting coordinator, I strongly support SB 230 to have reaffirmation of KCDHH authority pertaining to interpreters and dealing with all communication accessibility for Deaf and hard of hearing Kansas citizens. I had been working for different companies such as Sprint, Sorenson and nonprofit organization in other state and Kansas before i became CDI. I often deal with Kansas City interpreters for my job to communicate with professionals who don't know sign language. I had some unfortunate situations that i need to escalate or share my concerns about inappropriate interpreting incidents. I could not address that issues or resolve because those interpreters were free lance interpreters . Adding this SB 230 .it would be more accountability for all interpreters to do license and give KCDHH overhead to make sure that all interpreters in Kansas are complying to our Kansas laws. Secondly, I have my 20 years old son who has Down Syndrome. He was in middle school program and his speech ability was not fully developed yet so he depends sign language as primary communication.. Some recreational activities provided to my son. and I and my wife always felt uncomfortable to see him with unfamiliar interpreter. so i think it is most important for all interpreters to have background check to protect young deaf children Thirdy, Communication Access Service empower deaf and hard of hearing citizens to access vital information such as for nonprofit organization could not have financial to provide Kansas deaf & hard of hearing citizens communication needs and lessen confusion how to determinate which appropriate need for variety of communication needs. For instance, I want to attend local political rally to learn about candidate s position. My past experience, the local often struggle to find fund and select appropriate interpreter to meet my communication need.

I think pasing SB 230 will make a great stride and resolve some KCDHH role to be more effective agency working with different agencies and private entities. Thank you for your time to review this and consider about SB 230 ..

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Senate Education
Date: 1/28
Attachment#15