



# *Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc.*

P.O. Box 10085  
Olathe, KS 66061

March 19, 2021

Representative Steve Huebert, Chairperson  
House Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 286-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Testimony in **Support of SB 185**

Dear Representative Steve Huebert and Members of the House Committee on Education,

For 112 years the Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc. (KAD), has steadfastly and resolutely pursued its mission to preserve, protect and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of Deaf\* Kansans, of which there are approximately 210,000 that KAD authentically represents. KAD supports SB 185 as it too will continue to preserve, protect, and promote the rights of Deaf Kansans. Your vote to pass SB 185 will strengthen protections for marginalized Deaf Kansans to have equitable and qualified communication services in all matters of their life journey.

SB 185 reinforces and strengthens the current statutes authorizing Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) to maintain strict oversight of interpreters' adherence to professional ethics, as well as assuring safe and reliable communication access that impacts the physical, psychological, and financial well-being of Deaf Kansans.

KAD and its members are all too familiar with instances of interpreters taking on assignments beyond their skill set without consideration of the unethical, and harmful ramifications of interpretation errors and omissions. Interpreters with such self-serving behavior display a blatant disregard of ethics and showcase a pervasive and problematic mentality of, "getting away with it." In addition, some interpreters have betrayed the public's trust by not being sufficiently rehabilitated following a felony offense or a misdemeanor against persons. These interpreters knowingly disregard KCDHH's authority to implement safety measures and enforce compliance.

Therefore, SB 185 enhances and validates KCDHH's long-standing authority to assert and deem such interpreters or communication access issues as unsafe for the Deaf community, the general public and the interpreting profession. KAD asks each of you to vote YES in support of SB 185.

Respectfully,

KAD President

CC: Deborah Bremer, Committee Assistant, House Committee on Education  
Robert Cooper, Executive Director, Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
KAD Board of Directors

\*Deaf includes all individuals who share similar experiences and realities throughout their life journey.