



03.22.2021

Dear House Education Committee:

We are writing to you to express our full support of Senate Bill 185 that clarifies the authority of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) regarding the registration of interpreters, establishing guidelines for communication access services, and authorizing the adoption of rules and regulations.

As an organization of sign language interpreters who serves a diverse group of Deaf, hard of hearing, nonverbal, and hearing individuals across the state, we recognize the need of a culturally competent, centralized authority to provide guidance and support. Recognizing KCDHH as this authority could not have come at a more opportune time to support the communities we serve but to also advance the interpreting profession. Ensuring that sign language interpreters are properly qualified and supported for the demanding work they do protects the marginalized communities that we serve and protects the state's liability.

Thank you for consideration of Senate Bill 185, and please reach out to us via email or phone if we can provide the committee with any further information.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Heintz

**Kimberly Heintz
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