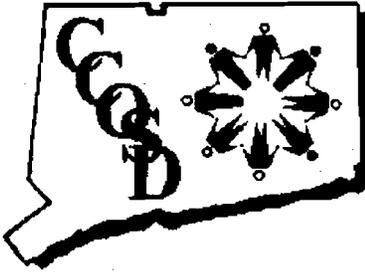


# Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf



March 6, 2007

Honorable Senator Jonathan Harris, Representative Peter Villano and Human Services Committee Members

HB. No. 7109 An Act concerning certification standards for person providing interpreter services

HB 7301 An Act concerning the availability of qualified interpreter services

My name is James Pedersen of West Hartford. I serve as the President of the Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf (CCOSD). This Council is comprised of 18 consumer and provider organizations and agencies serving deaf children and adults in the state of Connecticut. My testimony is in reference to two bills as mentioned above.

I support HB. No. 7109 an act concerning certification standards to ensure that the state's interpreter certification standards are with national standards. Previously, the national standards conducted under Registry Interpreters of the Deaf and National Association of the Deaf. They have decided to merge their own certifications under a new title, National Interpreters Certification (NIC).

I also support an amendment, HB. 7301 An act concerning the availability of qualified interpreter services. Deaf people constitute a low-incidence population, and disability creates serious communication barriers if not properly addressed, thus reduces those to ineffective and minimal in all areas of life, and affects their overall welfare. The proper vendors are responsible to request qualified interpreter service for the clients.

Thank you.

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#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- American School for the Deaf • American School for the Deaf Alumni Association •
- American School for the Deaf - Sign Language Program • Association of Late Deafened Adults - CT Chapter •
- NCCC - Collegiate Education for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program • Commission on Deaf and Hearing Impaired •
- Connecticut Association of the Deaf • Connecticut Deaf Senior Citizens • Deaf-Blind Association of Connecticut •
- Deaf Women of Connecticut • Family Service Woodfield • Gallaudet University Alumni Association - CT Chapter •
- Greater Bridgeport Association of the Deaf • Hartford Club of the Deaf • Independence Unlimited, Inc. •
- International Catholic Deaf Association #34 • Sign Language Instructor's Pool • St. Francis DeSale Catholic Club •
- Sound Off Theatre • Sprint Relay Service/Converse Communication Corporation •