

**Good day, Honorable Chairpersons Gayle Slossberg and Catherine Abercrombie,**

**I am Susan Pedersen, Past President of Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf (CCOSD). Unfortunately President Alexandra McGee cannot be here due to her work so I am speaking on behalf of CCOSD.**

**CCOSD strongly encourages you to support this bill 5321 regarding to strengthen and standardize the qualifications of interpreters serving deaf and hard of hearing person. Please include deaf-blind persons to this bill. Deaf-blind population that use sign language is often overlooked. They do need and use the interpreters.**

**It is logical to have the standards and monitoring board on the state level because it is reasonable for the state/local working interpreters or agencies/vendors who purchased the interpreting services to vent their complains or frustrations with the state board. The process would be taken immediately by the local qualified board members instead the national board members. Since the formation of the national board, some complaints from our state have reported their cases to National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NRID) but it takes many months to get the results from these different board members who live across the nation. To make good business sense, any local complaints within the state should be taken by the state board.**

**Please vote in favor of this bill 5321. CCOSD, consisting of more than 25 member organizations, strongly encourages you to upgrade our state law regarding to the change in National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certifications. Deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing citizens could continue to access information through qualified sign language interpreters certified by NRID who are registered to work in the state with Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) as mandated by the state law.**

**Thank you.**

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