

## Flynn, Eileen

---

**From:** Swenton, Betty <bswenton@lifebridgect.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 11:43 PM  
**To:** HSTestimony  
**Subject:** Raised Bill 6765 and 6941

To the Human Services Committee concerning Raised Bills No.6765 and 6941,

My name is Elizabeth Swenton. I am currently working on becoming certified with the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf through the National Interpreter Certification process. My concern is that Bills 6765 and 6941 have been submitted and may have repercussions and actually harm those in which it was intended to protect. A call for higher standards is certainly needed but considering Connecticut already has a shortage of interpreters and cannot fulfill the current requests, I have concerns that there will be many more individuals left with no one to facilitate communication. I feel more thought needs to be considered before these bills are put into law.

Other states have a clear progression as the field of interpreting becomes more prevalent in allowing the Deaf community to have equal access. Our proposed bills leave us with too many unknowns. Who will do the monitoring? How will they be chosen? How much will it cost the state and how much will it cost those in the profession? More importantly, how will this impact the community who deserves to have their voices be heard and to "hear" what others have to say. How can we consider amending these bills when we don't have exact details as to what this will entail for those of us involved in the profession nor the ramifications it will ultimately cost those whom it will effect?

As we strive to raise our standards in the interpreting profession, we need to have all our facts before us and considering the dire shortage of interpreters at this time, I believe this will negatively impact the very goal that we are all working toward.

Thanking you for considering my opinion.

Elizabeth Swenton