To Human Services Committee on both interpreting bills going forward 6941 and 6765:

I understand there is a hearing scheduled for March 17th, 2015 at 1:00 pm surrounding the controversy of these two interpreting bills. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend but want to voice my concerns behind them.

So much has changed since the interpreting profession became a legitimate field. Even in the ten-plus years since I embarked on the journey of becoming an interpreter, I have witnessed and experienced the rise of mandated credentials and the lack of interpreter training to support these mandates. Many others can attest to this. This relates to the bills being addressed on Tuesday, March 17th, 2015. The growing standards and lack of training explains the struggles we face on the shortage of qualified/certified interpreters in the state of Connecticut.

Many of us have struggled for years in pursuit of this profession to obtain the necessary training, and thereby our certification. It is difficult to obtain the appropriate training and support to move forward. I fully support raising and maintaining interpreting standards at a level that encourages growth among our colleagues. However, with very few educational opportunities in place in this field, few new interpreters can progress and feel first-class among the seasoned interpreters. We all started somewhere but after years in the profession it seems easy to forget what it is like starting out. Yet these fresh faces can offer much if given the essential instruction.

Furthermore, the people hurt most by this bill are those it is intended to serve. These bills directly affect the relationship we interpreters have with consumers because the regulations put forth impact the services they receive. My hope is that these proposed changes were clearly disclosed to the individuals we service. I am concerned that the Deaf community may suffer because of these bills.

I implore you to think about the consequences these bills will have, should they be passed.

Respectfully,

Robin Crispino