

Suzanne L. Silva

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Dear Human Services Committee

I am a parent, registered voter, and I wanted you to know about my son Corey Silva who is DEAF. Every time that he's involved with the police for any reason they refused to provide him a sign language interpreter especially when they have him sign something he does not understand what he is signing. He even shows them a card asking for a language interpreter so that he can understand what he is signing. When he needs to see a doctor he has to wait two weeks to get an interpreter. I was told by Protection and Advocacy that local police departments would be trained on issues for DEAF persons and providing a sign language interpreter when one is requested.

I hope that you will support Bill number 6765 and 6941. These bills are important so that the deaf community can have the same provisions as people will get here but speak a different language.

I think it's unfair to have a parent or a close relative to interpret for a deaf person when they may interpret incorrectly or the way they want to be interpreted.

I have had to do this number of times to be put in a position where I've had to interpret and I'm no expert.

So again I am hoping that you will support Bill number 6765 and 6941.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Silva