



March 2015

To: Human Services Committee on Raised Bill 6941

My name is Elizabeth Campbell and I am the Director of Operations at LifeBridge Community Services (Formerly FSW). I manage the Interpreting Department at LifeBridge Community Services, where we have 37 certified Sign Language interpreters employed. Our agency has been providing interpreting services to the Deaf community throughout Connecticut since 1995.

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There is a high need for sign language interpreters in the State of Connecticut. Cooperation is required between interpreting agencies in order to satisfactorily care for the needs of the Deaf community in our State. When a Department of Rehabilitation Services Interpreter is not available to fulfill an assignment, an alternate interpreting agency should be provided with a reasonable amount of time to schedule an interpreter. Most interpreter agencies require notice of at least 5 business days. However, depending on the nature of the assignment, more notice may be required.

LifeBridge Community Services makes every effort to fill last minute requests and emergencies, based on interpreter availability. However, without enough advance notice, there is a higher likelihood that the assignment will not be covered. Obviously, the Deaf client would be greatly impacted if no interpreter is available for their communication needs.

Bill 6941 might not be the best fit for the needs of the Deaf community. State agencies should have the option of selecting interpreters from any local interpreting service that best fits the needs of the Deaf consumer.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Campbell  
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