

**Flynn, Eileen**

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**From:** Doreen <jenand43@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 08, 2015 8:14 PM  
**To:** HSTestimony  
**Subject:** Human Services Committee on Raised Bill 6941

**To Human Services Committee on Raised Bill 6941**

I am Doreen Simons with a Deaf Certificate since 1978 through formal classes for the interpreting program at the California State University, Northridge plus two master degrees in Deaf Rehabilitation and Deaf Education from New York University. I have been interpreting over 30 years. There is specific area I have some concerns related to qualifications for interpreters. The group decided to use NAD IV certificate for advanced not same as NAD V for master adequate to meet legal interpreting requirement. Here is a copy of this kind of certificate from the National Association of the Deaf:

**Certifications for Certified Interpreters:**

**National Association of the Deaf (NAD Certification)**

**NAD III (Generalist) - Average Performance**

Holders of this certificate possess above average voice-to-sign skills and good sign-to-voice skills or vice versa. This individual has demonstrated the minimum competence needed to meet generally accepted interpreter standards. Occasional words or phrases may be deleted but the expressed concept is accurate. The individual displays good control of the grammar of the second language and is generally accurate and consistent, but is not qualified for all situations.

**NAD IV (Advanced) - Above Average Performance**

Holders of this certificate possess excellent voice-to-sign skills and above average sign-to-voice skills or vice versa. This individual has demonstrated above average skill in any given area. Performance is consistent and accurate. Fluency is smooth, with little deleted, and the viewer has no question to the candidate's competency. With this certificate, an individual should be able to interpret in most situations.

**NAD V (Master) - Superior Performance**

Holders of this certificate possess superior voice-to-sign skills and excellent sign-to-voice skills. This individual has demonstrated excellent to outstanding ability in any given area. There are minimum flaws in their performance, and they have demonstrated interpreting skills necessary in almost all situations.

**Whereas both NAD and RID certifications indicate that the holder has proven a certain level of skills, the different certifications and levels do not parallel each other, that is, a NAD level 5 is not equivalent to an RID CI – American Sign Language only and CT- Sign English only so both CI/CT are combined skills where R.I.D categorizes this certificate for legal standards. We, Deaf people do not feel comfortable with “mediocre” interpreter for any legal situations that would affect our life in risk.**

**Secondly, I am confused with education part for interpreting because of**

many different kinds of hearing loss and additional disabilities not just interpreting without educational background. Any interpreters for educational situations need to go through college courses in order to be able to understand what Deaf/Hard of Hearing child needs to meet their needs for proper communication accessibility including I.E.P and Parent's involvement.

Thirdly, I am aware of other states to share with the screening Board due to financial reason especially Connecticut's budget cuts. Massachusetts already have this kind of testing so we should work with them for this plan.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. Doreen Simons (email: [jenand43@comcast.net](mailto:jenand43@comcast.net) in case if you need to contact me.