

Good evening Co Chairpersons Senator Beth Bye and Rep. Toni E. Walker and the Appropriations Committee Members,

I am Lisa Flaherty-Vaughn of Enfield. I am deaf with limited vision. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in favor of Raising Bill #6765: Title: AN ACT CONCERNING INTERPRETER QUALIFICATIONS.

I want you to include the implement of the standard board that requires some funding to pay for a staff member doing the following duties:

- to enforce the state laws regarding interpreting,
- to maintain the listing of sign language interpreters who register with the state
- to monitor the interpreters' records and
- to hear out the consumers' complaints about poor quality or conflicts of the interpreting service.

Let me tell you what happened to me last month. i want you to realize how frustrated i am because i am not satisfied with the result. There is same occurrence to the others because of no place to file the complaints against the agencies, programs and schools who do not follow the state laws, federal regulations or Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA). I would like to say two things of my experience with hospital and police situations.

Hospital:

I went to ER with my deaf partner. We requested REAL alive interpreter, ER staff refused call for real live interpreter, they insisted that we used VRI the screen on BRI was too small and the background color was so difficult for to see because of my visual impaired. They gave us hard time about it.

Police:

I called Enfield Police Department for emergency assistance , and I requested that police gets American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, but the police refused. Instead they put pressure on my hearing daughter to interpret, and the police was very rude toward my daughter.

That is for my personal experiences. Any questions to text me at 203 675 6263, Thanks

Please consider in adding a funding to the Raising bill # 6765 to have the standard board to make the state law enforcement more effective. Please vote in favor after hearing my story. Many other stories from other deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind consumers/citizens should be heard out too. Thank you.