

Regarding to Bill 6637, An Act Concerning Statewide Mental Health Services for Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Persons. (Human Services)

To Whom It May Concern:

3/18/21

Hello, my name is Melissa Render of Hartford, Conn. I'm here to give my statement of this bill.

I was born and raised in Danbury, CT the county of Fairfield where there is almost from little to none services of Mental Health services for the Deaf in that area. During my youth years I struggle many times because I never had interpreter nor were they trained with Deaf people also there weren't any Deaf therapist in the area as well. Because of that I struggle with understanding and was behind in many things! My mental Health never improve till I made a change move to Hartford in 2008! I been seeing my Deaf therapist for few years and helps a lot! In 2017, I moved back to Danbury area finding out that Fairfield county is still the same since where I had left off 10 years earlier and still today there is no Deaf services in the area for Mental Health. I don't think it fair for Deaf patient have to travel so far like I did for 2 years I took Med Cab to Hartford every Wednesday to see my therapist, and I wasn't happy anymore where I was so I moved back to Hartford in 2020.

I strongly believe we need to expand more Deaf services across the state of CT. I don't want to see others go thru what I had. A Deaf Therapist that is well understanding of Deaf Culture would be very efficiently then a Hearing Therapist with interpreter.

I'm pretty sure once you start plant that seed the flower will grow. There are many Deaf patients across the state of CT can't seem to get to the service or unable to find it. Therefore, they become very isolated which cause depression it something we don't want it happen.

Again, In the today world of 21 Century it is time for a change and be more open, think about of other's need. As I said it only takes a seed to grow a flower. I assure you that if there was a Deaf Services for Mental Health in Fairfield county I wouldn't had moved.

Thank you...

Melissa Render