

House Health & Human Services

02/24/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1109 Sign Language Consumer Protection Study

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Sarah Norton-Kohn For themselves	<p>I am in support of this bill. I want to explain what my recent experience was as a hearing person in a professional career using interpreter services. I conducted an interview with a person that was hearing impaired. She did not read or write in English her first main language was American Sign Language. Well, she could slightly communicate through writing it was not effective for her or myself during the interview. The biggest issue that I had was this woman was not able to read the documents that were sent to her, and I could not read them verbatim to her. The spell word be helpful. Yes in medical settings however also this community would need additional resources for legal services as well. I truly believe that it is important for every person should understand what is being told to them. It completely separate medical and legal interpretation should be provided to them.</p> <p>I personally had no idea that there were deaf community members that could not read English. I thought that was standard. I think education needs to be provided to the medical and legal professions. I did not realize how much harm could be caused for this community until I had my experience. I personally do not want to be a person that causes harm. Not all interpreters are created equal and do not have the vocabulary in ASL to effectively communicate what is being said. Thank you for listening.</p>