Hi,

Thank you for your support. How can you help? You can write a letter and share your experience as an interpreter serving the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Community. Legislators need to know how our interpreters feel about interpreter shortage and how they've been impacted. Encourage your legislators to support this bill. Thank you so much in advance!

Take Action now:

1. Here's the letter template for you to use. (a generic introduction letter about you and why the interpreter shortage is important to you.) Please update the yellow highlights to incorporate your details in the letter. **Instructions for contacting your legislators are under the template.**

Hello {Representative/Senator_____},

My name is NAME. I have been a freelance American Sign Language/ProTactile interpreter for X years. I'm reaching out today as a member in support of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Community, as well the Interpreter Community.

1-2 SENTENCE PERSONAL ANECDOTE ABOUT YOUR HISTORY AS AN INTERPRETER IN WASHINGTON STATE

1-2 SENTENCES ABOUT HOW THE INTERPRETER SHORTAGE HAS IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY (Impact of shortage in the terp field, jobs, not enough teams, understaffed, burnout)

I am asking for your support for a new bill, **HB 2221,** endorsed by Rep. Tina Orwall with support from Rep. Farviar, Rep. Pollet, and Senator Pedersen. If passed, the bill will create and fund a stakeholder workgroup to gather data about the ASL and PT interpreter shortage in Washington State. The workgroup will use the data to create a report that recommends policy solutions to the House of Representatives and Senate. The report would also include community-based solutions for Washington State residents.

Please support the Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing communities in Washington State by lending your support to the passage of this bill.

You can find more info about the community effort to pass the bill at TerpsWA.com. Please reach out to me at your convenience if you would like to discuss this issue.

Thank you for reading.

YOUR NAME
Interpreter

2. **How to find your legislators:**

- Find and email your legislators: Washington State Legislature.
    - Input your home address, click “Find My District”
    - You will see a list of Legislators for your district (3 Washington State Legislators and 3 Federal Congressional Legislators)
    - Pick one **State Legislator** to see directory
    - In your Legislator’s profile, click “Email” to see a form
    - Step 1: Input your home address and click “Verify District”
    - Step 2: Input in your contact info
    - Step 3: Go to “Subject” (Skip “Bill Number, “Initiative Number”, “Description”, “Position”)
        - **Subject**: Sign Language Interpreter Shortage
        - **Message**: Copy and paste the Letter of Introduction (remember to edit with your information), or enter your own message
        - **Would you like a response**: Click YES
    - You’ll see a new prompt: “Would you like to send a copy to your email message to other legislators in your district…”
        - Click YES
    - Click on “Send Comment” button

3. When you receive a response from your legislators, please follow up with the draft bill and one pager. Here’s the instructions for next steps.