

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Bill of Rights Legislation



### **Ask**

Please support the passage of SB 143 and HB 111 (currently sections 11 and 12 of SB 140): The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Bill of Rights.

### **What**

1. Deaf children are born with the same ability to acquire and develop language as any other children and have the right for this to be treated as a priority.
2. Deaf children have the right and the capacity to be educated, to graduate high school, to obtain further education, and to pursue a career.
3. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children have the right to:
  - Receive appropriate screening and assessments of hearing and vision capabilities by qualified professionals proficient in ASL, English, and educational needs of deaf and hard of hearing children.
  - Learn from qualified professionals who can communicate directly with Deaf children – rather than through a translator – and who are proficient in developing the child's acquisition of language throughout the early intervention and school year.
  - Sufficient number of Deaf peers of same language mode level and age.
  - Opportunities to interact with Deaf adult role models to internalize their self-worth and visualize their potential.

- Benefit from all services and programs at their schools to fully access education and society. This means every deaf child must have full access to all information, specialized personnel, school programs, social activities, and extra-curricular activities. Communication skills and/or modes by themselves do not equate language proficiency.
- To be assessed appropriately and timely.
- Seventeen states have passed a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Bill of Rights.

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