

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF
CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

My name is Susan Catale, Advocate for deaf and Hard of Hearing. I work part time at 2 centers: Center for Disability Rights and Access Independence.

I am writing to say “Thank you” to Legislators for your hard work over the past years on funding to get Deaf Services back at Independent Living Centers. Independent Living Centers are of the few places that provide deaf services. I strongly believe this service will increase the number of deaf people who come to the Center. I am deaf and understand the culture and community because I experience the same barriers and share the same frustrations. I want to be a role model to deaf consumers and assist them with any issues.

Each Center needs a full-time, Deaf Services Advocate. So, I urge you to provide the funding for full-time positions, And to increase Core Funding in order to provide the services around the whole state.

Thank you very much for your time and interest.