

March 15, 2018

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes in support of LB 783.

Clarifying the term “educational interpreter” in state statute as proposed in LB 783 is important so that the legislative intent in state statute §20-150 (3) is more fully understood. Interpretation services are an essential element of a quality education for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. It is difficult for deaf or hard-of-hearing students to learn without such services or if services are not consistent, which in turn frustrates the ability of Nebraska to meet its own obligation in §20-150 (1): “secure the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons who cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken language”.

We encourage the advancement of LB 783.

For further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience: [brad@drne.org](mailto:brad@drne.org), or 402-474-3183.

Sincerely,

Brad Meurrens

Public Policy Director  
Disability Rights Nebraska