

May 12, 2020

Dear news media organization,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. As fellow Nevadans, we would like to thank you for your responsiveness in the reporting of the COVID-19 outbreak as it is beginning to affect our state.

We applaud the Governor's office in ensuring deaf and hard of hearing Nevadans who use American Sign Language as their primary mode of communication have access to this vital public safety information. Unfortunately, at least one news media channel excluded the interpreter from the camera view for most of the address, thereby denying access. **We urge your organization to include the interpreter in the camera view at all times during these types of briefings so we can remain informed.**

Additionally, for Nevadans who are deaf or hard of hearing who rely on captioning, **we urge you to ensure captioning services are overlaid on every broadcast.**

The vision of the Nevada Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is that all Nevada residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Persons with speech disabilities along with their families and professionals who support them have timely access to information, effective communication, education, and services that promote choice and independence. Thank you for your assistance in making our vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Eli Schwartz, Chair

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing