

Eli Schwartz
Legislative Subcommittee
April 7, 2022

Public Comments

During public comments. It was mentioned that when an officer approaches a vehicle, there is no knowledge prior to the officer approaching the vehicle that the person inside is Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. The idea was presented that we possibly work with the department of motor vehicles through auto registration and have the option prior to the name to have in capital letters "Deaf, HH for hard of hearing, or SI, for speech impaired. It appears that there may be no cost to the department of motor vehicles to implement this.

But for an officer, approaching a vehicle, they normally run plates first, which shows the registration information. If they had the information, approaching a vehicle, it could possibly eliminate a lot of confusion.

Town Hall Meeting

It was recommended to have three town hall meetings statewide, live and in-person and also add a Zoom component for people who have no access to transportation. The three locations will be Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko. The purpose of the town hall is to educate the community, the Deaf community, hard of hearing community, anyone, what the legislative process is and what they can do to empower themselves and why we're here for them.

SB318

Senate bill 318 and this bill is about the language access plans that are now going to be required.

It created accessibility communication effort with the state partner agency and to make sure there was effective communication access for all state agencies, including the legislative and branches of the government.

Discussion was held whether the specific terminology was needed to state ASL language as well in SB 318. However, Jay Caffaratta stated "It doesn't preclude it'.

Deaf Day

It's part of that education, but also just the awareness and the representation in the legislative process. We did have a lot of children call in and testify on specific bills to just have their voices heard on how it affects them. I think these are the kind of things that really made an impact with our young community. And just have the kids be there and meet with senators and assembly persons to be able to just be present, to kind of give their feedback.

And it for the legislators, the people who are creating the laws that govern our lives, they have often don't even know that we exist as a community. As not just a one thing of our lives, it's not like we just have hearing loss but there are even if you just look in this meeting, we have so many different types of people.

Rusty mentioned that it would also be great to get news coverage (NBC). He knows one of the newscasters personally, and is sure that the organization will reach out as well, but if you let me know well ahead of time.

it needs to come with a budget and somebody needs to be in charge of it. Rusty indicated that he will see if the Association of the Nevada Telecommunications Association can participate financially somehow with something.

Legislative Supporters

We discussed which legislators would be Commission and the Deaf and HH community's sponsors to help us push the any potential bills.

1. Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May: [Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May \(tracybrownmay.com\)](http://tracybrownmay.com)

*Attended virtual Deaf Day at Legislature '21

*Is quoted by commenting after the presentation during the Zoom call saying "I've enjoyed the last hour immensely. My office is always open and available" and made a point to say "always reach out for any help for our community, whether you are a constituent or not".

2. Assemblywoman Selena Torres: [Assemblywoman Selena Torres \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

*She was a Guest Speaker at a presentation NVHV co-hosted with Grassroot Girls called Advocacy Empowerment Webinar: Raise Your Hands and Voices, in April '21. The focus was on advocacy in women, in particular DHH Issues.

3. Senator Melanie Scheible [Senator Melanie Scheible \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

*Attended virtual Deaf Day at Legislature '21

*Recognized the Deaf Commission and the presentation on the Senate floor later that day.

*Cosponsor of SB 203 (Revises provisions governing programs for children who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing (BDR 38-77)

*This is the legislator who indicated her sister has some connection to the Deaf community

4. Assemblywoman Dr. Robyn Titus [Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

*Was the main sponsor of AJR1, which included removing "deaf and dumb" from the NV constitution.

(The initial sponsors of AJR1 are Assembly Members Titus, Benitez-Thompson, and Krasner and Senators Hardy, Harris, and Seevers Gansert,)

5. Assemblyman David Orentlicher [Assemblyman David Orentlicher \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

*Attended virtual Deaf Day at Legislature '

6. Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson

Bylaws

Review the bylaws applicable to the subcommittee members serve one year term, instead of three years, with option of renewing additional year.