

NV Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Legislative Positions

The Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired will advocate for and support the following positions to ensure that all Nevada citizens have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities in all aspects of community life.

****The red highlights represent someone is working on these proposals:**

- 1. Position on Voting Accessibility for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DD Council and Deaf Commission ED)**
 - a. Develop and strengthen all currently available polling locations and machines in Nevada to include information available in American Sign Language.
 - b. Access to private and equal locations for individuals to cast their ballots.
 - c. Access to information in American Sign Language which includes information on registering to vote, candidates, important dates, polling location information, casting your ballots, and additional information deemed necessary for voting.
 - d. Beginning in youth, encourage inclusion of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired in all levels of voting and education on voting rights in schools.
 - e. Strengthen and encourage use of currently available Nevada's Effective Absentee System for Elections (NVEASE), which can be accessed at www.nvease.gov.
 - f. Provide education to law and policy makers on the needs of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired when it comes to all aspects of voting.

- 2. Position on Deaf Schools for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (Deaf Commission ED and Commission Reps for Grant Funding)**
 - a. Consolidation of resources
 - i. Audiologists, Speech Therapists, Oral & Signing Programs

- 3. Position on Captioning for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (Las Vegas Deaf Seniors)**
 - a. Media Captioning
 - i. Airport (Deaf Commission ED)
 - ii. Bars, Medical, Legal
 - iii. Public Communication

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4. Position on ASL Interpreters in Schools for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **(Interpreter Subcommittee). BDR REQUEST**
 - a. Educational Certified Interpreters
 - b. Research shown that there's a higher quality of life all around for those that have greater access to language earlier in their life.
5. Position on ASL Interpreters for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 - a. Medical Interpreters **(Deaf Commission ED)**
6. Position on Services Provided to People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **(Independent Groups "Deaf Community Networking Group" & Deaf Commission ED)**
 - a. Deaf and HH must have qualified individual with life experiences as a Deaf or HH individual and have the expertise to provide such services
 - b. Enhance communication accessibility and services
 - c. Fair distribution of resources
7. Position on Policymaking for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **(Legislative Subcommittee "Deaf Day at the Legislature" Outreach)**
8. Position on Government and State Agencies who Provide Services to People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 - a. T-coils and/or Bluetooth systems **(HLAASNC - Lance Ledet, President)**
 - b. Government Building and Public spaces **(Deaf Commission ED & DD Council)**
9. Position on Education for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **(Education Subcommittee & Interpreter Subcommittee alongside Deaf Commission ED and Commission Reps for Grant funding)**
 - a. Educational Interpreters
10. Position on Public Accommodations for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing **(Las Vegas Deaf Seniors & Accessibility Subcommittee)**
 - a. Captioning in public spaces
 - b. VRI to Hospital (Deaf Commission ED)

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11. Position on Accessibility for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (**Accessibility Subcommittee**)
12. Position on Equality for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (**DD Council, Commission ED, Steven Cohen, & Dina Titus Rep Mitchell Moonier**)
 - ~~a. Change the NRS for people with disabilities to be paid the same as anyone without disabilities.~~
 - b. In 2025, no will be able to enter a new contract in subminimum wages
 - c. In 2028, everyone will have been phased off of any subminimum wages
13. Position on Deaf Centers for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (**Independent Group**)
 - a. Sammy's Den
14. Position on ADA and IDEA Policies for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (**Eli Schwartz Letter of Inquiry to NV Equal Right Commission/Felipe Ortiz**)
 - a. Strengthen Nevada's enforcement of the ADA and IDEA provision
 - b. Hire compliance officer to pursue justices and state oversight
15. Position on Identifying Challenges and Solutions Related to Deaf Services in Nevada (**seeking ADSD Collaborative efforts**)
 - a. One-time appropriation for interim study to identify challenges and solutions related to deaf services and how Nevada can do better with recommendation to Commission and to the State.
 - b. Outside consultant to provide a road map to improve access

For Considerations

1. Change the NRS for people with disabilities to be paid the same as anyone without disabilities. (**Recommendation for Further Engagement**)
2. Add ASL for second language for curriculum credit (**Susan Beckett Recommendation**)
 - a. An alternative to international language credit
 - b. Curriculum should be consistent within the school.
 - i. Should be taught by certified interpreters