



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH

#### House Bill 637 – Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Service Center

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 637 - Making a Grant for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Service Center. This bill appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the Department of Human Services as a grant to establish and operate a comprehensive service center for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is in the process of establishing a comprehensive service center for clients they serve. The center will offer a variety of classes to promote individual growth, social awareness and productivity. Members of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community who are not clients of Vocational Rehabilitation would not be able to participate in center services. This grant would allow the center to serve the entire community of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people so that they may all benefit from the center.

DCAB defers to the Department of Human Services and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board regarding the amount of an appropriation necessary for a comprehensive service center. However, there are amendments that we offer to clarify the intent of the bill:

1. On page 1, Line 11 of the purpose, add wording be added at the end so it will read "...establishment and operation of a comprehensive service center for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind."
2. Add the same wording to page 1, line 16 at the end of the sentence in Section 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director