

Scott Walker
Governor



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1 WEST WILSON STREET
PO BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

Linda Seemeyer
Secretary

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Telephone: 608-266-1251
Fax: 608-267-2832
TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

September 5, 2017

Wisconsin Association of the Deaf
PO Box 256
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

This is in response to the letter we received from you on August 18, 2017. In your letter, you have asked the Department of Health Services, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to re-consider opposition of LRB2200. I would like to share with you that we have not stated any opposition of LRB2200; rather that we had some questions and concerns with the way the bill is currently written.

The Department receives concerns from consumers, sign language interpreters, and service providers regarding the quality of sign language interpreters available statewide. At this time, we are unsure as to whether or not the proposed changes to interpreter licensure will address these concerns as well as sign language interpreters statewide.

As requested, we will be sending our questions for consideration to Rep. Jonathan Brostoff. The Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently sent out a survey to practicing sign language interpreters in Wisconsin to see if they had any questions about the current sign language interpreter licensure, 2009 Wisconsin Act 360. Several of the responses included questions about the current LRB2200 proposal, which we have included for your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carrie Molke".

Carrie Molke, Director
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

Enclosures:

1. Review of LRB2200
2. ODDH Survey Responses

Cc: Linda Seemeyer, Secretary
Jennifer Malcore, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Amber Mullett, Director, Office for the Promotion of Independent Living