

**From:** [Kirsten McGraw](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Interpreter Referral Line  
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Senator Click Bishop,

My name is Kirsten McGraw and I work at Co-op Market Grocery & Deli as a Bulk Coordinator and Buyer. I was at the first budget hearing for Fairbanks to speak up against cutting the funding for Interpreter Referral Line.

It is worrisome that we, as a Deaf community on whole, might lose an important link between us and the hearing community, businesses, and medical services. I rely on IRL to provide interpreters for clear and concise communication for my business meeting at Fairbanks Co-op and for my medical appointments which requires an interpreter who is certified in ASL and also certified to work in medical field in accordance to HIPA law. Finding a certified interpreter is hard enough to do on my own, harder for businesses and for many other people. Not to mention, considerably time consuming and expensive. This will leads to many places needing to turn away Deaf customers or clients because they cannot provide the necessary service and this also create a big problem within medical field as doctors cannot have people not certified (in accordance with HIPA) to interpret for their deaf clients. This kind of act (by businesses) will break the fundamental of American Disability Act, put many places in a bind, and leave the Deaf community in the dark. Interpreter Referral Line solves all these problems by screening interpreters and helps businesses like Fairbanks Co-op to be able to provide service in accordance with ADA law.

It should also be mentioned that we are seeing more Deaf people coming up to Fairbanks looking to study at UAF or looking for a job here. They will need IRL too for the same reason I do.

I am encouraging the budget committee and anyone involved with it to not cut out the Interpreter Referral Line completely.

Thank you for your time reading this,

Kirsten McGraw  
Bulk Coordinator

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