

Darrell Doudt: On Behalf of Citizens for Deaf Cultures,

Testimony of the Ohio Deaf History Month
IN SUPPORT OF SB 27: OH Deaf History Month

Chairwoman Marlene Anielski, Chairman of House State and Local
Government Committee
March 28, 2017

Good Afternoon! Honorary Chairwoman Marlene Anielski and Honorary
Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

First of all, I personally would like to thank Senator Bill Beagle, and his
legislative aide, Ethan Zucal for their time. They took to assist me with the
legislative process. I also thank you, Chairwoman Marlene Anielski, for
giving an opportunity to listen my testimony.

I also would like to share with you this important message from our citizens.
Over 500 petitioners that signed the forms, are asking for your support to
promote Deaf History Month. On March 17, 2016, State Library proclaimed
resolution on Deaf History Month, and encourages Ohio Libraries to host
deaf awareness activities during this month-long celebration. We, Citizens
for Deaf Cultures, thank to State Library and the Staffs. Hopefully, this
passage of SB27 favorably approve by House of Representatives.

Allow me to explain briefly about myself. I am currently employed with US
Postal Service for 31 years. My grandparents and parents are deaf. I am
fluent in American Sign Language. It is important to note that American
Sign Language is the third most commonly used language in the United
States.

It came to my attention about a missing link. Our society has lacked
information or awareness regarding progress made by deaf pioneers since
the founding of the first deaf school in 1817; the rich history of our Deaf
Heritage, our language, and Deaf Education movement in the U.S. in the
mid-1800s. Part of the problem is that documents about the growth of the
Deaf Community and Deaf Schools were not found in library books.

There is a constant struggle for our Deaf Community to gain recognition for
their efforts due to language barriers and lack of awareness. Deaf citizens

in Ohio have a voice and are capable of contributing to community. Our mission is to promote equality and empowering deaf and hard of hearing citizens by using their potential to make connections with society by embracing diversity through public awareness and community resources.

For example:

Our public libraries support stewardship of library collections and promote cultural heritage on special events such as “Black History Month”, “Hispanic Heritage Month” and other special holidays celebrated by other ethnic groups. The month of February is best known for remembering the important contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation’s history. It impacts greatly towards every citizen to understand more about their cultures, heritages and customs.

Deaf History Month is a months-long celebration, running from March 13 to April 15, that gives all Organizations Serving the Deaf in Ohio a public platform to celebrate deaf history, deaf culture, deaf linguistics; to highlight artistic creations, to launch programs, even to launch drives for the creation of American Sign Language as a recognized language in America, not as a political campaign but as an educational campaign.. Regular, consistent. and dedicated programming, mentoring, and community/governmental involvement is proactive advocacy.

We are exciting to announce our upcoming library event on April 7th. Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures, Cleveland Black Deaf Advocates - Chapter 2, Ohio Association of the Deaf Blind are promoting a special event honoring legendary Deaf Baseball Player William “Dummy” Hoy who invented the hand signals used during ballgames. We are exciting to offer this program as part of Ohio Deaf History Month at Coventry Village Library in Cleveland Heights.

I want to share another news. One of my friend who is City Letter Carrier recently posted Facebook, and shared his message. He shared his appreciation to discover Postmaster’s message about Deaf History Month which passing packet to every employees at Ashland Main Post Office. Upon seeing the packet, it made his day and had a positive impact.

With your support by recognizing SB27, and it may contribute greater impact toward improving deaf citizens' quality of life in the State of Ohio. Again, we need your support to recognize Deaf History Month as one of designated commemorative months. I am pleased to learn that you, Vice Chairman Stephen D. Hambley, are on this committee which represent my hometown district.

Lastly, I personally want to thank Honorary American Library Association Alice Hagemeyer & Mr. Alec McFarlane who dedicate their time, and assist us to campaign this action.

Let's recall what our President Theodore Roosevelt quoted "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future"

I urge the committee to show their support for SB 27. We thank you all, Chairwoman Marlene Ainelski, Vice Chairman Stephen Hambley, Ranking Member Heather Bishoff and Honorary twelves members: Steven Arnt, Michael Ashford, John Baker, Janine Boyd, Rick Carfagna, Bill Dean, Wesley Goodman, Brian Hill, Glenn Holmes, Michael O'Brien, Rick Perales, and Scott Ryan