

WRITE AND CALL NOW:

On State Association or Chapter letterhead, if possible

(Date)

Dear Governor Hochul,

I/We , who am/are among nearly four million New York State residents with measurable hearing loss, urge you to **sign the legislation (A6710, and S1852) to establish a State Commission for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.**

We seek ongoing policy and decision-making informed by individuals and families with lived experience. Professionals, lawmakers and ex-officios involved in policy and decision making are, more often than not, individuals without lived experience.

We seek assessment, planning and delivery statewide of coordinated services to match the different needs of adults and children who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing in the areas of healthcare, housing, employment, education, social services and services for the elderly.

One of every three people over age 65, and one of every two over 75, has a measurable hearing loss.

We seek a central source of technical assistance to assure the delivery of effective communication to and with our three communities -- by such means as captioning, assistive listening systems, properly trained and certified sign-language interpreters and tactile interpreters.

Please demonstrate your continuing commitment to New Yorkers with disabilities by signing the approved legislation to make New York the 39th state with a commission or agency for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

Respectfully,