

Brian Daniels
State Representative

District 19A
Goodhue, Rice, and Waseca Counties



Minnesota
House of
Representatives

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Pinto
Chair, House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 612, "Right to Language" Bill

Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee,

Below are emails my office received in support of HF 612, the "Right to Language" Bill:

"I support HF612 because it highlights the significant problems posed on children with hearing loss. Children who do not have language access suffer significant social, emotional, behavioral and academic challenges for their entire lives. Without adequate language access these children are continually behind their peers in many aspects of their lives. It is paramount to provide children with language from birth and ASL is the way to do this. Depriving children of language is neglect. Please strongly consider supporting this bill because it means you are supporting the growth of children across the state of Minnesota!"

Jason Valentine, LGSW, LSSW
School Social Worker
St. Paul, MN

"I am writing this letter of supporting HF 612 that ensures Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing children to have access to a rich language environment which their primary language is America Sign Language (ASL) and a least restrictive environment (LRE) which they have the ability to communicate and socialize with others in ASL.

I am suggesting that DeafBlind children have access to Pro Tactile Language (PTL) as well.

Please support this bill that gives the above children a right to access to their primary language without any language deprivation.

Thank you."

Vincent and Sharon Clark
Deaf and DeafBlind parents
With Deaf and DeafBlind children

“My name is Les Fairbanks.

Currently Upper Northwest representative to the MNCDHH(Mn Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Board.

I'm writing this in support of HF612.

I've ran the educational gauntlet, and would love to see children experiencing my disability, have a better grasp and understanding of the languages needed to achieve sustainable development.

When I was on the MNCDHH Board, I pushed for supporting this bill. MNCDHH Board voted to support this bill, however recently it has been placed on a lukewarm status by the staff of the MNCDHH, much to my chagrin.

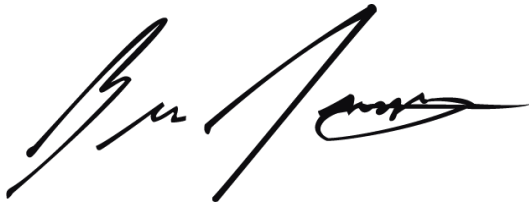
Please do your due diligence and consider promoting this bill for a quality educational opportunity for the deaf community.

Miigwech,
(Thank you, in Ojibwa)”

Les A. Fairbanks
White Earth Nation Member

Thank you for your consideration and for reading the testimony of these Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Daniels', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Daniels
State Representative
District 19A
651-296-8237
Rep.Brian.Daniels@house.mn.gov