

January 15, 2015



Leslie Prince, Administration and Policy Manager Interpreter Services Program Manager
The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203
Henrico, VA 23229-5012

Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia

Dear Ms. Prince and the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Re: HB 1956 Hospitals; patients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing:

Position Statement on the Regulation of Hospitals; patients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing

The Speech Language Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) is in agreement and emphatically supports HB 1956 regulations which require each licensed hospital to develop a process for identifying patients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and take steps to ensure that patients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing are able to effectively communicate with health care providers involved in their care. It is our mission at SHAV to advocate for individuals with communication and hearing disorders. Therefore, our state organization strongly believes that this legislation promotes better access to healthcare providers and facilitates better quality of care for the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Virginia. Requiring that hospitals put mechanisms in place to facilitate effective communication with the deaf and hard of hearing may also result in reduced healthcare costs, as healthcare providers are able to more efficiently diagnose and provide the proper treatment to the deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in our state.

Thank you for considering SHAV's comment on this issue that benefits the citizens of Virginia.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Pulliam, M.S., CCC-SLP

SHAV President



Darlene Robke, M.S., CCC-SLP

SHAV Vice President for Governmental & Professional Affairs