



"The world has watched the deaf community come of age. Together we've overcome our own reluctance to stand up for our own rights."

Dr. I. King Jordan, President
Gallaudet University

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June 29, 2017

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Honorable Governor Bruce Rauner

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207 State House

Springfield, IL 62706

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Leon Devriendt
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Dear Governor Rauner:

Treasurer

Lisa Roth
treasurer@iadeaf.org

On behalf of the Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD), we write to you on a matter of the utmost urgency and respectfully request you sign Senate Bill 1839 (SB1839), important legislation addressing provisions and funding for telecommunications and 9-1-1 centers. Along with many Illinoisans, we ask you sign this bill into State Law at your earliest possible opportunity.

Membership Secretary

Elke Weinbrenner
membership@iadeaf.org

The Illinois Telecommunications Act is set to expire July 1st. This act contains the mechanism for telephone providers to collect directly from telephone subscribers and fund programs and services, including 9-1-1 and the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC).

Chicago Chapter of IAD

Earl Weston
CCIAD@iadeaf.org

Communication access should not be used as a political pawn. SB1839 is not in any way related to the general budget discussion, primarily addresses regulatory issues and extends the repeal date of the Illinois Telecommunications Act. Specifically, SB1839 ensures 9-1-1 funding remains and Deaf, DeafBlind, Late Deafened, Speech-Disabled and Hard of Hearing Illinois residents will continue to benefit from the Illinois Relay Phone System and numerous telecommunication devices ITAC distributes.

Decatur Chapter of IAD

Greg Heberling
Decatur@iadeaf.org

With funding mechanisms established in the Telecommunications Act, ITAC has been a valuable resource to the greater community since 1988. ITAC continues to distribute various telecommunication devices, including TTYs, alerting devices, DeafBlind communicators, etc. We need your support to ensure the community's communication access standards and experiences are not diminished or disrupted.

Fox Valley Chapter of IAD

Donald Moore
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We appreciate your recognition of the time-sensitive nature of our request and understanding of the positive impacts this legislation has on Deaf, DeafBlind, Late Deafened, Speech-Disabled and Hard of Hearing Illinois residents. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

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Sincerely,

Corey Axelrod
President
Illinois Association of the Deaf

Jason Altmann
Legislative Chairperson
Illinois Association of the Deaf

cc: Honorable Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison
Honorable Illinois State Representative Michelle Mussman
Honorable Illinois State Senator Laura Murphy
Honorable Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz

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