



May 23, 2025

Friends,

The Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD), doing business as Deaf Focus, is pleased to submit this letter of endorsement in response to the Notices of Intent (NOI) issued by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD).

LAD fully supports the following proposed rule actions as critical steps toward ensuring quality services, enhanced governance, and professional standards within Louisiana's Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities:

1. **Proposed Amendments to LAC Title 67:VII.309 – LCD Board of Commissioners**

We endorse the inclusion of clarified roles and responsibilities to empower the Board of Commissioners in carrying out its oversight and advisory functions effectively. Strengthening the structure and operations of the Board is key to advancing equitable access and inclusive service delivery.

2. **Proposed Repeal of LAC Title 67:VII.1301 – State Sign Language Interpreter Certification Standards**

We recognize the importance of modernizing Interpreter standards and support the repeal of outdated provisions that no longer serve the profession or the community effectively. Transitioning these standards to a more appropriate and professional regulatory framework is necessary.

3. **Proposed Promulgation to LAC Title 46:LXXII – Professional and Occupational Standards: Sign Language Interpreters**

LAD enthusiastically supports the establishment of clear, enforceable minimum qualifications and a grievance process for Interpreters. These standards reflect the evolving needs of our community and the demand for accountability, quality, and professionalism in interpreter services statewide.

As a Deaf-led, community-rooted organization dedicated to advancing language access and systemic equity, LAD applauds the Commission's work to update and formalize these important rules. We stand ready to assist in ensuring that these changes are implemented in a way that reflects the lived experiences and linguistic rights of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JH" or "Jay Isch", written in a cursive style.

Jay Isch
Executive Director