

From: [Amy Zapata](#)
To: [Damien Parfait](#)
Cc: [Jana Broussard](#)
Subject: Re: Notice of Intent: Proposed Standards for Sign Language Interpreters
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:53:03 AM

Thank you very much for your input, Damien.

Amy Zapata, MPH

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On Jun 4, 2025, at 9:50 AM, Damien Parfait <damienjparfait@gmail.com> wrote:

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Dear Ms. Zapata,

I am writing to express my full support for the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf regarding minimum qualification standards, registration processes, as well as grievance, suspension, and revocation policies for sign language interpreters working in our state.

For decades, interpreters in Louisiana have been allowed to operate under minimal standards, with no obligation to retest, improve, or maintain their skill level over time. As a profession rooted in performance skills, this has severely impacted the quality of communication access provided to Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard-of-hearing people.

I strongly believe that these changes are long overdue. Our role as interpreters comes with an ethical responsibility to commit to continuous improvement. Speaking for PK-12 interpreters specifically, blanket exemption of these standards would not promote equity. This would only preserve the status quo and compromise access, especially for Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind youth who can not advocate for the quality of the services they receive.

These updated requirements will offer a clear path forward. They will provide the necessary structure and motivation for interpreters to grow professionally, while also allowing adequate time and resources to reach the new expectations. Ultimately, this change will improve the quality of interpreting services across Louisiana and reaffirm our collective commitment toward equity with the Deaf community.

I have the utmost faith in the leadership and staff at LCD and appreciate your ongoing efforts to elevate our profession and protect the rights of the community we serve.

Thank you,
Damien J. Parfait
ASL-English Interpreter- PK-12
PK-12 Interpreting Mentor