

To the Committee:

Concerning SF 2291 Bill, I am writing a testimony to you that an amendment is needed to recognize Individuals trained in ProTactile Language interpreters for DeafBlind students statewide. This unique service will enable DeafBlind students' access to equal communication.

Per the Minnesota Department of Education Child Count, December 1, 2021. There are a total of 124 students labeled DeafBlind as their primary disability.

Information and resources on ProTactile:

<http://www.dbinterpreting.org/>

<https://www.deafblindkids.org/>

<https://www.perkins.org/qa-how-pro-tactile-american-sign-language-ptasl-is-changing-the-conversation/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protactile>

Vincent Clark