

Submission from Rebecca Kail

I am not from the Deaf community, and have only recently started learning BSL. Therefore, I think others are far more qualified than I am to provide evidence on this bill. However, I would like to state my support for the bill, and for wider recognition of and use of BSL. BSL is a language in its own right. It is the first and only language for many in the Deaf community. I agree that introducing the BSL bill is the best approach. A legal requirement tends to concentrate attention – and funding.

I value the diversity of the languages found in Scotland. BSL is one of them and should be given equal status. As a Gaelic learner, I have seen the value of legislation promoting minority languages. I appreciate the Scottish Government's commitment to celebrating diversity in Scotland – and supporting it where necessary - and I hope that this bill will become part of that continuing work.

Regards,

Rebecca Kail