

Support with Amendments

February 19, 2020

Delegate Lily Qi
Montgomery County, District 15
6 Bladen St., Room 223
Annapolis, MD 21403

Dear Delegate Qi and Team,

The Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MACDHH) is an 18-seat council that advises and supports the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) as authorized in Chapter 537, Acts of 2001-Code State Government Article, §9-2404 to §9-2406. MACDHH recognizes the need for state regulations on educational interpreters in primary and secondary education because Deaf and hard of hearing children should receive accessible education with effective interpreters.

In regards to HB 794 – Educational Interpreters, MACDHH supports the bill if it was amended as follows:

1. Page 4, Line 20: **Pass ~~One~~ the EIPA ASL Performance Test with a Minimum Score of ~~3.7~~ 4.0.**
 - a. The ASL performance test must be emphasized as there are other forms of tests available. This emphasis ensures that educational interpreters must not only pass the written exam but the performance exam as well.
2. Page 4, Lines 24-32: **A Minimum of 40 20 Hours Annually of Professional Development as Outlined by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.**
 - a. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) expects certification holders to complete 80 hours of professional development within a 4-year cycle. This equates to 20 hours of annual professional development.

To reiterate, MACDHH conditionally supports this bill if amended as outlined above. We believe, with these changes, Deaf children in primary and secondary education will receive qualified educational interpreters which supports accessible education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Gray, Ed.D.
Chair, Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

CC: Kelby Brick, Esq.
Director, Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing