



Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

March 3, 2022

SB 370– Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, support this legislation that requires the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to develop regulations for certification of educational interpreters.

Maryland currently has no regulations which determine who can market themselves an interpreter. The results of not having regulations have impacted Maryland’s deaf population as they find themselves in situations where the interpreter is not qualified and, in some examples, has never been trained, to help them with critical appointments, where information is crucial such as doctor appointments, job interviews, and even college classes.

This bill will help set requirements to help this population so they can be assured they are getting someone who can help them develop intellectually in the classroom, as well as assist them when receiving other vital information, whether from a doctor, job interview, or any other appointment they face.

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges supports this legislation and thanks the sponsor for introducing this important bill.