



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [www.mota-members.com](http://www.mota-members.com)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 1084 - State Government - Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 1, 2024</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 1084 - State Government - Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing. The bill establishes the Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing to provide and advocate for accessible and comprehensive services, and foster inclusivity, equal opportunities, and improved quality of life, for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

Occupational therapists support the establishment of a Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing due to their expertise in promoting independence and participation in daily activities for individuals with disabilities. This specialized group of individuals faces unique challenges in communication, social interaction, and access to information and services. The Commission would be specifically dedicated to their needs, occupational therapists aim to ensure that the rights and well-being of the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing population are protected and that their specific needs are addressed in policies and programs. Through collaboration with other professionals and stakeholders, occupational therapists can contribute their knowledge and skills to develop inclusive strategies and promote equal opportunities for this group.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).