

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) and with support from all the organizations that serve communities in the State of Maryland. We are asking you to support SB 1084 - Commission for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, sponsored by Senator Mary Washington. This bill will require establishing the Commission as an independent unit of State 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; and generally relating to the Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing. This commission will fill in the service gaps the community needs that the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing cannot provide due to their limited resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and we appreciate your support on SB 1084.

Sincerely,

Tina Joyner  
President  
Maryland Association of the Deaf

Janet S. Weinstock  
President  
Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc.

Linda Stoltz  
President  
Maryland Deaf Community Center

Jacob Leffler  
President  
Baltimore City Association of the Deaf

Bruce Denhart  
Acting President  
Metro Washington Association of the  
DeafBlind

Jeffrey Buxbaum,  
President  
Washington Society of Jewish Deaf

Sophia Hu  
President  
Greater Washington Asian Deaf  
Association

Gabrielle Davis  
President  
Prince George's County Association of  
the Deaf

Elke Pieters  
President  
Howard County Association of the Deaf

Apurva Varia  
President  
Metro South Asian Deaf Association