



March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Bill: SB 1084/HB 1069: Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing**

**Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association (“MSHA”) represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

We are writing in support of SB 1084/ HB 1069, which would establish the Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing as an independent unit of State government 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. People who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing experience urgent needs for increased accessible services, employment and educational opportunities, and advocacy within the State of Maryland. These supports enable full participation in the workforce, educational institutions, and community engagement for Maryland residents with hearing and vision differences.

**For these reasons, MSHA supports SB 1084/ HB 1069 and respectfully asks to be added to the Commission.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Miskowski".

Megan Miskowski, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM".

Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM  
Director of Audiology  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

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