



Maryland Association of the Deaf
Written Testimony
HB 1339 - Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults - Coverage
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Position: Favorable

President

Tina Joyner

The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equity issues.

Vice President

Jacob Leffler

MDAD supports the bill, HB 1339, that is sponsored by Delegate Reilly along with 13 delegates. There are approximately 1.2 million Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the State of Maryland. The hearing aids cost in the range of \$2,000 and \$4,000. They become more expensive every time the hearing aids are being upgraded to today and future's technology. This will cause a lot of financial hardship for many of those who lose their hearing in later life. Not only that, some people who were born deaf or become deaf during their youth are relying on hearing aids for the environment's sounds.

Secretary

Tiasha Bera

Treasurer

Allysa Dittmar

With this bill, this will relieve financial hardship for many of us. Please vote and support this important bill.

Board Members

Vikki Porter

Jennifer Ajifowoke

Blaise Delahoussaye

Tori Reeves

Thelma Schroeder

Thank you,

MDAD Board of Directors