

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 26, 2026

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Ann C. Black. I am DeafBlind, and I am truly delighted to see that SB 665 has been placed before you.

For many years, I have advocated and worked tirelessly for recognition of the DeafBlind community. This issue is very close to my heart. I respectfully ask that you do not reject or leave out the term “DeafBlind” from the name of the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

DeafBlind individuals are part of the very community these offices serve. We work with these offices, rely on their services, and deserve to be clearly and intentionally included. Adding “DeafBlind” to the official names would be meaningful recognition of our identity and our place within Maryland’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

It would bring me great joy to know that my years of advocacy have helped make this inclusion possible. I would also like to sincerely thank Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman, Delegate Elizabeth Embry, Delegate Lesley J. Lopez, Delegate Edith J. Patterson, and Delegate Teresa E. Woorman for sponsoring this important legislation.

I sincerely hope to see this change happen and to witness the DeafBlind community formally recognized before my time is up.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 665. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,  
Ann C. Black