

February 24, 2026

Subject: Please support Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Renaming

Dear Senator Waldstreicher,

I am a Maryland resident in your district and a member of the Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Hard of Hearing community (or parent/guardian/ally). I am writing to ask you to support Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Renaming (SB 665).

This bill helps ensure support accessibility for people like many DeafBlind Marylanders face often limited or unavailable due to insufficient funding. Too often, their unique needs are overlooked or redirected to other sources, leaving us exhausted from constantly advocating for themselves. This ongoing struggle highlights the urgent need for their community to be recognized and supported at all levels of state government.

This ongoing situation demonstrates the critical need for their community to be acknowledged and supported at the highest levels of state government.

Recognition is vital. By explicitly including "DeafBlind" in the title of the Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, their existence is validated, their needs are more likely to be addressed, and their inclusion is promoted. I respectfully ask for your support in ensuring that DeafBlind Marylanders are made visible in all state agencies and facilities, and that we receive equitable access and opportunities throughout the state.

With strong leadership and a focus on bipartisan cooperation, the Maryland Senate stands ready to address the challenges ahead. I am confident that their continued service will benefit all Marylanders and ensure a brighter, more prosperous future for our state.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

K. Ulf Hedberg

Rockville, Maryland