

HB794
Favorable, with amendments

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Michele Westfall

February 21, 2020

Dear Delegates,

My name is Michele Westfall and I'm Deaf. I'm a parent of two Deaf children, and I'm also a board member of the Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MACDHH). I'm submitting my written and oral testimony on HB794. My position on this bill is "favorable, with amendments."

The bill has two areas which I'd like to see amendments done:

1) Page 4, line 20: PASS ONE EIPA WITH A MINIMUM SCORE OF 3.7;...

This needs to be changed to **4.0**, in order to follow the official recommendation set by EIPA.

2) Page 4, lines 29-32: A MINIMUM OF 40 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATION; OR (II) A MINIMUM OF 80 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A LEVEL TWO OR LEVEL THREE CERTIFICATION.

This needs to be changed to **20 hours per year of professional development, for a total of 80 hours over four years**, in order to be aligned with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) requirements.

We all want Maryland's Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to do well educationally, and these two changes will make HB794 better. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall
Active, registered voter
Parent
Board member of MACDHH