

House Bill 535 - Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act
sponsored by Delegate Acevero

Madam Chairperson and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Irene W Leigh. I am a Deaf individual. I live and work in Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support HB535 - Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Act of 2021 sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero. This bill would require licensure for sign language interpreters working in the state of Maryland and help to ensure that members of the Deaf community have access to qualified interpreters. As a professional working with deaf people, I get stories about how unqualified interpreters misrepresent messages and sometimes make the deaf ASL communicator look inadequate. When unqualified interpreters are allowed to work unchecked, the impact on the communities they serve can be a matter of life or death. This bill provides both a mechanism for licensing interpreters and a means for relief in the form of a grievance process. I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

As a constituent, I ask you to please support HB535.

Sincerely,

Irene W Leigh

irenewleigh@gmail.com

Rockville, MD 20852