

**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 Marian Mahoney. I am a parent of a Deaf child and live in Cheverly, MD. I am writing this testimony to ask you to support **HB535 - Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Act of 2021** sponsored by Delegate Acevero.

For too long, Deaf, and deaf blind consumers of ASL/English interpreters have had to suffer with incomplete ideas and inadequate communication due to the lack of fluency of currently working interpreters who have been able to make a living and not be accountable to any oversight authority. According to the ADA, this is in violation and with this licensure, consumers of ASL / English interpreters both Hearing and Deaf would have some increased level of assurance that effective communication is happening. My children are Deaf and will rely on accurate information through interpreters so for me this is extra personal.

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. 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.

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

Sincerely,

**Marian Mahoney**  
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