

Maryland Interpreter License Team's SB431 Oral Testimonial for House Hearing

- Consumer protection bill
- According to Director Brick of the MD GODHH, MD is the only state with no regulation of sign language interpreters.
- Some may wonder why we house the bill under the Department of Labor with support from the ODHH because ODHH is a partisan office serving at the pleasure of the Governor with the purpose of advising the Governor on matters pertaining to Deaf and HOH Marylanders. With their advice and mechanism within DOL for licensing professions like interpreters, we feel interpreter licensure will be best served by a combination of both entities and licensure board.
- There are businesses in Maryland that already follow the practices outlined in this bill. They believe in the spirit of what we are proposing.
- The businesses who would oppose the bill are the ones who have been hiring non-qualified, non-certified, and in some instances, fraudulent interpreters. The practice is being done because there is a lack of regulation or enforcement of such and there are no consequences.
- These unqualified interpreters are exploited(advantaged) by these businesses (agencies) because they are put in situations in which they believe is sanctioned(approved) by the business and therefore, sound (credibility). AGENCY EXPLOIT THOSE UNQUALIFIED INTERPRETERS - THEY GO AHEAD PLACE INTERPRETERS - INTERPRETERS GO-AHEAD PROCESS THINK OK BUT REAL BUSINESS UNQUALIFIED
- Horror stories: Tara's & Peg's stories
- Deaf people live with the reality that their voices might never be truly heard. This bill provides a way for the state to recognize that protections ensure we don't lose before we even get a chance to try. DEAF PEOPLE COMPLAIN BUT IGNORED ALL THIS TIME. NOW WITH BILL WILL PROTECT AND HEAR OUR VOICES
- Because there is a lack of consumer protection, there have been cases where medical and legal ramifications are permanent and life-changing. There is no telling the countless voiceless that have suffered from this lack of protection.

Stats/Numbers

468 Certified Interpreters: Live in Maryland

124 Certified Interpreters: Live in DC

82 Certified Interpreters: Live in North Va

25 Certified Interpreters: Live in Del

Total Interpreters Available to Serve Maryland from Region: 699