

**From:** Catherine M Griswold [mailto:[hcedcon@msn.com](mailto:hcedcon@msn.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** Qi, Lily Delegate <[Lily.Qi@house.state.md.us](mailto:Lily.Qi@house.state.md.us)>; West, Chris Senator <[Chris.West@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Chris.West@senate.state.md.us)>  
**Subject:** support HB0651 and SB0464

**To:** Delegate Qi's & Senator West,

Delegate Lily Qi |  
House Office Building, Room 223  
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
[lily.qi@house.state.md.us](mailto:lily.qi@house.state.md.us)  
Senator Christopher R. West

James Senate Office Building, Room 303  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[chris.west@senate.state.md.us](mailto:chris.west@senate.state.md.us)

Re: HB0651 sponsored by Delegate Qi  
Re: SB0464 sponsored by Senator West

**From:** Dr. Catherine M. Griswold

**Date:** February 3, 2020

**Re:** Educational Interpreter (EI)

Re: HB0651 sponsored by Delegate Qi  
Re: SB0464 sponsored by Senator West

My name is Dr. Catherine M. Griswold and I am mother of an alumnus of Maryland School for the Deaf and deaf and hearing advocate who is a former resident in Maryland.

I support HB0651 and SB0464 for the following reasons:

- There are around 150 Educational Interpreters in this state and only 10 are certified. Maryland is one of the few states without credential requirement.
- Educational interpreters should be required to meet the minimum certifications standards in all educational, health, legal and educational environments to ensure accurate access to language interpretation.
- There is a concern that Educational Interpreters may be double dipping and receiving payment by taking EIs out of the classrooms and sending them to the jobs outside of schools, thus earning extra money (FCPS and FCC).
- This Bill will protect the hearing people who are not knowledgeable about Deaf Ed/Educational Interpreting fields and to provide them with guidance on what qualified EIs look like.
- EIs should be considered "service providers" as outlined in Special Education law. Not "the help" or doing laminating, etc.

While I was a nurse and my son was a student at Maryland School for the Deaf, I witnessed many encounters with unqualified interpreters who were inaccurately translating vital information. I had to intervene to ensure accurate information was

given to deaf students and parents. This is unconscionable that inaccurate health and educational information is being translated and could have devastating consequences. For these reasons I ask you to please support HB0651 and SB0464.

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine M. Griswold

Recently retired to

629 Republic Way  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

[hcedcon@msn.com](mailto:hcedcon@msn.com)