

Hi. My name is Mark Burke, I am the owner of Streetcar 82 Brewing Co. in Hyattsville, MD. I write this letter to show my support for the Maryland Interpreter Licensure bill - HB 1107.

This bill is important as it establish a baseline of expectations for a qualified interpreter. This will assist agencies to establish regulations eliminating deceptive practices.

There are many interpreters out there and with a bill in place, it will not create a shortage but to identify qualified interpreters as well as filtering out those who are not qualified.

As a business owner, its important to me that I have a qualified interpreter to interpret for me. One example is when I had to apply for a license and face the Prince George's County Liquor Board. I had to give my testimony why we should be granted a liquor license and explained to them that we have taken all of the necessary steps to be in compliance. During my testimony, I was assured that my needs were met as the interpreter comprehend what I was signing and to voice what I said to the board. I was elated to know that my testimony went well knowing that I had the confidence in my interpreter to correctly speak what I was signing. Our liquor board license was approved.

Imagine if I had an unqualified interpreter who failed to convey what I wanted to tell the board, the liquor board license could be denied and I would have to go through the whole process again at the next meeting three months later. As a business owner, I would not be able to brew and sell beers thus losing money and potentially losing my business.

I strongly endorse Maryland Licensure bill - HB 1107.