

HB37_MACC_FAV_B.Phillips.pdf

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV



House Ways and Means Committee
TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

January 20, 2022

HB37– Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, support this legislation that requires the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to develop regulations for certification of educational interpreters.

Maryland currently has no regulations which determine who can market themselves an interpreter. The results of not having regulations have impacted Maryland’s deaf population as they find themselves in situations where the interpreter is not qualified and, in some examples, has never been trained, to help them with critical appointments, where information is crucial such as doctor appointments, job interviews, and even college classes.

This bill will help set requirements to help this population so they can be assured they are getting someone who can help them develop intellectually in the classroom, as well as assist them when receiving other vital information, whether from a doctor, job interview, or any other appointment they face.

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges supports this legislation and thanks the sponsor for introducing this important bill.

(MSC) HB37 Testimony (FAV).pdf

Uploaded by: Jon DiPietro

Position: FAV

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

JON DIPIETRO, DIRECTOR
HUNTER CRAIG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CHRIS LIDARD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
LAUREN RASKIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
VINAY KHOSLA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY

BILL: House Bill (HB) 37 - Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements

SPONSOR: Delegate Qi, *Montgomery County (15)*

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Monday, January 17, 2022

HB 37: Favorable

The Maryland Student Coalition is an entirely student-led, advocacy group that serves to bring students together to promote education policy reform. Founded in 2020 as a vehicle for advocating for students' right to demonstrate, our scope has since expanded to include more educational advocacy initiatives. You can learn more at marylandstudents.org

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee. We are writing in favor of House Bill 37.

House Bill (HB) 37 - Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements, which requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop and implement regulations for the certification of educational interpreters. Additionally, this legislation ensures that deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can not be denied this certification (assuming they are otherwise capable and qualified).

The Maryland Student Coalition strongly supports providing qualified language interpreters for deaf students. According to the Preamble of HB 37, as of September 2021, Maryland has roughly 150 ASL educational interpreters, however, there is currently no certification or licensing requirement. In order to provide all students will a quality education, supporting students that are deaf or hard-of-hearing is essential. Implementing a standard of certification will provide this quality of education for all students.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports the principles within the legislation and strongly encourages issuing a **favorable** report on HB37.

HB 37 Educational Interpreters McDaniel Testimony

Uploaded by: Julia Jasken

Position: FAV



Written Support

House Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 37 (Qi) Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements

Dr. Julia Jasken, President
jjasken@mcdaniel.edu

January 20, 2022

On behalf of McDaniel College and the 2,900 undergraduate and graduate students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of ***HB 37 (Qi) Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements***. This bill will require educational interpreters to obtain certification by 2029 in order to work in a Maryland public school. It also specifies qualifications for initial certification, assessment requirements, and professional development plans for certification renewal.

McDaniel College has a long-standing history in Deaf Education. Since its inception in 1967 as a partnership between the College and the Maryland School for the Deaf, McDaniel's Master of Science in Deaf Education has prepared outstanding and award-winning teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels. The Deaf Education program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and is approved by the Council on Education of the Deaf and the Maryland State Department of Education.

At the undergraduate level, McDaniel currently offers a major in American Sign Language (ASL) Studies. These programs provide students with various opportunities for immersion in the language and culture of deaf people, including an option to spend the January term in an ASL environment or a semester as a visiting student at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

McDaniel would welcome the opportunity to support HB 37 with expanded programming to help meet the State's needs for educational interpreters and is very well-positioned to do so. For example, McDaniel could support the implementation of this bill in the following ways:

- Establish articulation agreements with Deaf Studies/ASL/Interpreting associate's degrees at community colleges, creating a seamless pathway for students to transfer to McDaniel and major in ASL; or
- Launch a one-year educational interpreting master's degree program. Nationwide, not many master's degrees are available in interpretation, and there may only be one currently offered with a focus on educational settings.

Nationwide, Maryland is one of only five states not to have regulations for interpreters. This seems to be out of line with other aspects of K-12 educator licensure and certification, which are very strongly regulated in Maryland. Interpreters often end up as the primary language model for deaf students in public school settings. They help ensure that students have a fully accessible educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom. Since deaf students may have little or no access to any auditory input at school, what they receive visually should be of the highest quality and standard. Therefore, we believe that educational interpreters should have specialized academic and professional credentials and be held to rigorous preparation, testing, and certification standards.

For all of these reasons, McDaniel College supports House Bill 37 and urges a favorable Committee report.

HB 37 - Educational Interpreter Certification Requ

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 37
Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements**

**Ways and Means
1/20/2022
1:00 p.m.**

**Lauren Lamb
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 37, which would require the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to develop certain rules and regulations for the certification of educational interpreters.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA is dedicated to ensuring that all our children receive a world class public education; one that prepares them for college, career, and life. This is especially true for our most vulnerable students, including those who are differently abled. Our students who are deaf and hard of hearing deserve unfettered access to the content and skills essential for college and career readiness. Unfortunately, much like the case with English Learners, our deaf and hard of hearing students communicate in a different language than that of their classroom teachers. Classroom teachers, therefore, must rely on educational interpreters (EIs) to assist in translating that which our hearing students are receiving to our deaf and hard of hearing students. Without this support, our schools are unable to provide access to the Free Appropriate Public Education to which our differently abled deaf and hard of hearing students have a right. This is unacceptable.



MSEA believes that all of us have a role to play in providing our students with the services, supports and resources they need to be successful. This legislation will ensure that a significant player in the process is well equipped to execute their responsibility to ensure fair access to all of Maryland's students.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 37.

HB 37 FAV FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Fidler

Position: FAV



Maryland Independent College
and University Association

Written Support

House Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 37 (Qi) Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements

Sara C. Fidler, President
sfidler@micua.org

January 20, 2022

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 58,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of *House Bill 37 (Qi) Education - Educational Interpreter - Certification Requirements*. This legislation would create new requirements for educational interpreters who work in Maryland public schools.

House Bill 37 would create certification standards for educational interpreters to help protect the integrity of the educational experience for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. All K-12 students deserve the opportunity to be educated by professionals with specialized academic and professional training and credentials. Unlike the majority of other states, Maryland does not currently have certification standards for educational interpreters. For many students, interpreters are a primary source of information both inside and outside of the classroom.

One of the MICUA member institutions, McDaniel College, is dedicated to preparing Deaf Education professionals through both undergraduate and graduate program offerings. McDaniel has offered a renowned Master of Science in Deaf Education program for several decades, preparing teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels. Additionally, McDaniel offers an undergraduate major in American Sign Language (ASL) Studies and offers a bachelor's degree in ASL. As referenced in McDaniel's testimony, the College is committed to supporting the implementation of HB 37 through expanding its Deaf Education program offerings.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 37.