

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mark Burke and I'm the owner/head brewer of Streetcar 82 Brewing Co in Hyattsville. We are proud to be a Deaf-owned and operated brewery.

I write in support of HB260 the Maryland Interpreter Licensure bill. This bill is important as the Deaf/Hard of Hearing consumers have the right to qualified/certified interpreters. In the event, the interpreter's performance was unsatisfactory the consumer need to have the opportunity to report a complaint.

I testified in person last year but was disappointed that the bill did not go through. I will continue to push on this until its passed.

Last October Brooke Kidd, with Joe's Movement in Mount Rainier, contacted me and let me know about a Rock Opera/Play performance that will be ASL interpreted. Ms. Kidd was excited about doing this to make this event accessible to the Deaf especially with the close proximity of Streetcar 82 Brewing Co. I was on board and bought tickets for myself and my friends.

My friends and I all went out to dinner and then head to the show. When we arrived, we first met Eli one of the two interpreters. I had a hard time understanding Eli as I thought she was trying to be theatric and I didn't say anything. Roz then appeared and she introduced herself and I understand her just perfectly.

We all went to our seats and were excited to be watching the show. The two interpreters worked together as a team where they will alternate. Eli started first and I was having difficulty understanding her and then when it was Roz's turn I understood her just fine then back to Eli where I struggled to understand her again and I asked my friends if you are understanding what she said they said no. At intermission, I went out to the lobby and ran into a hearing friend and Eli saw me and quickly came over to interpret for me but she couldn't comprehend what I was trying to say to my friend. I turned to my friend and told him I needed to go and took off as she was making it worse.

I went back to my seat and was eager to get the second half of the show started, I saw Eli drinking out of a clear plastic cup then it hit me maybe she is drunk. There was a bar in the lobby where people could buy alcoholic drinks. Eli was up first and a few minutes in, I turned to my friends and said she is really drunk. Eli then abruptly walked off to the lobby and Roz quickly jumped in and took over the interpreting. Eli then returned and tried to resume interpreting, my friend told her to sit down and let Roz interpreted the rest of the show. Eli was disturbed and quickly slumped down in her seat. It was right there we can see that she was really drunk by her body language and etc. We were immediately turned off. Roz interpret the rest of the show and we actually enjoyed the show more with her. It was discussed with my friends that I would reported this to Brooke that this interpreter Eli was drunk.

As soon as the show ended, Brooke immediately walked to Eli and both had a few minutes conversation and Eli then left abruptly. Brooke came and apologized to me and my friends about this unfortunate incident. Brooke said that she would contact the interpreting agency about this.

We were a paying customer and having to shelled out our money, this interpreter Eli ruined our experience. Im hesitant in purchasing tickets to shows again.

I later learned that this same interpreter Eli is still interpreting as one of my friends who went to the show, her sister recognize the name. She was interpreting for the Prince George's County Council meeting on Zoom.

I was shocked to learned that she is still able to interpret, I do not know what her consequence was with the agency whom she worked for when she did the show. She was likely to have been hired as a freelance interpreter. This is why we need this interpreter licensure bill SB 0346. The bill will allow us to report and also to hold interpreters and interpreting agencies accountable.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mark@streetcar82.com](mailto:mark@streetcar82.com).

Sincerely,

Mark Burke  
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Hyattsville, MD