



**Maryland Association of the Deaf**  
**Written Testimony**  
**SB 817 – Public Safety - Missing Persons With Cognitive**  
**Impairment - Purple Alert Program**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

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The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equity issues. We are advocating for the passage of the SB 817 sponsored by Senator Ellis regarding Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment - Purple Alert Program. There are approximately 1.2 million Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the State of Maryland.

We are in favor of this bill because the amendment will include Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing people and the police will consult with citizens with disabilities to develop regulations and procedures. This will relieve the community knowing that there are regulations and procedures when facing Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Community.

We look forward to a favorable bill on SB 817.

Thank you,

MDAD Board of Directors