



Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair Appropriations Committee House Office Building
Room 121 6
Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB678 – Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library – Funding and Budget Submission

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC), we write in strong support of HB678, which seeks to provide essential funding for the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL). This library serves as a vital resource for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals across Maryland, ensuring equitable access to educational materials, cultural resources, and community support services.

Since its establishment in 2014, the DCDL has played a crucial role in empowering Deaf and hard-of-hearing Marylanders by offering tailored resources that enhance literacy, language development, and cultural awareness. The demand for these services continues to grow, reflecting the increasing recognition of the unique needs of this community. Reliable funding is necessary to sustain and expand these vital services, ensuring that individuals who rely on the DCDL can continue to access high-quality, accessible resources.

ASDC is dedicated to advocating for the rights and education of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families. The DCDL aligns with our mission by fostering an environment where families, educators, and professionals can find culturally and linguistically appropriate materials that support the development of Deaf children. By securing funding for the DCDL, Maryland demonstrates its commitment to inclusivity, education, and cultural preservation.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass HB678 to guarantee that the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library receives the necessary financial support to continue its invaluable work. Thank you for your time and consideration. ASDC stands ready to provide further insights and assistance in support of this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

Judith Lomax, Psy.D.
President, Board of Directors

Cheri Dowling
Executive Director