

February 23, 2026

Subject: Please support Maryland's LEAD-K bill (Language Acquisition Tracking Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children)

Dear Senator Waldstreicher,

I am a Maryland resident in your district and a member of the Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing community (or parent/guardian/ally). I am writing to ask you to support Maryland's LEAD-K bill creating a Language Acquisition Tracking Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children (SB 502 and HB 879).

This bill helps ensure Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing children develop language skills on track with their peers by providing regular language assessments (signed or spoken chosen by families), setting statewide milestones, supporting educators with training, and requiring public reporting on outcomes.

Please support this bill and help Maryland prevent language deprivation and improve kindergarten readiness and long-term success for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing children.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

K. Ulf Hedberg

Rockville, Maryland