

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Alianiello, and I am submitting this written testimony as a concerned educator who has spent over 15 years in the service of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). Having worked in two major public-school systems in the state of Maryland as an educator of deaf/hard of hearing children and a supervisor of sign language interpreters.

I am writing to formally express my support for **SB 0645**. The Public School Superintendent's Association of Maryland (PSSAM) and the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) will be putting forth amendments as well and I support their amendments. Since the passage of Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act in 2023, we have worked collectively to bring forward impacts on local school systems in support of the development of regulations. We need to ensure that the pieces are correct before we move forward with enacting this law. The changes proposed within this bill and the additional amendments that PSSAM and MABE will be proposing will help make this law effective.

I strongly believe in licensure for sign language interpreters, but we need to make sure we have qualified people involved in this process to make sure that the regulations are fair, sensible and have the intended effect of providing access to deaf/hard of hearing people in the state of Maryland.

Thank you,

David Alianiello