

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Senator Simonaire:  
State Capitol  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB346 sponsored by Senators King, Bailey, Brooks, Elfreth, Jackson, Klausmeier, Salling, and West

Dear Honorable Senator Simonaire:

My name is Joe Smith, I am a Deaf individual living in Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support SB346 - Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Act of 2023 sponsored by Senator King Bailey, Brooks, Elfreth, Jackson, Klausmeier, Salling, and West. This bill would require licensure for sign language interpreters working in the state of Maryland and help to ensure that members of the Deaf community have access to qualified interpreters. When unqualified interpreters are allowed to work unchecked, the impact on the communities they serve can be a matter of life or death. This bill provides both a mechanism for licensing interpreters and a means for relief in the form of a grievance process. I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

As an interested individual, I ask you to please support SB346.

Sincerely,

Joe Smith  
smithlee11@gmail.com