

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan:

My name is Rita Owens, 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 a Deaf constituent in Maryland, I ask you to please support SB346.

Sincerely,

Rita Owens
nkowens@gmail.com

