

Hello, My name is Liza Alers and this is my son, Dylan Alers. We are here to support the Raised Bill 6765 An Act Concerning Interpreter Qualifications with the amended in establishing the motoring board and a staff position.

Dylan will be sharing his experiences with uncertified interpreters in the past few years.

My experience with uncertified interpreters is not great. I have Deaf parents and I also have a hearing sister so my grammar is based on english and sign language as my first language. I also speak a lot with my friends and family. I'm fluent in American Sign language but when it comes to my education, I want my interpreter to be able to modify to meet my understanding but uncertified interpreters cannot modify as any deaf person would expect them to.

I have experienced hardships like when an interpreter did not sign everything that teacher said. One time, I had an interpreter that did not meet my understanding because she did not modify for me. It was the most frustrating experience for me. It affected my ability to concentrate in school while trying to understand the interpreter. So often I had to ask the teacher myself to clarify for me.

I'm also involved the middle school soccer team and it's really important for me to be able to understand the language because there were a few times my coach was frustrated with me for not doing what he wants me to do. It's because the interpreter did not tell me exact what he said.

There was a few times where I missed the most important information like when my teacher was a reviewing on what was going to be on my test. The uncertified interpreter affected my learning and my grades. Im embarrassed to say this that i got a 60 on that test. Its the lowest I ever received in Social Studies.

Another experience that I had was when the interpreter was signing incorrectly and my friends copied her and learned from her and started signing those incorrect signs to me. The interpreter effected their learning about Deaf Culture by teaching the wrong signs.

At a spelling bee, my teacher of the deaf was out and and a uncertified interpreter kept signing wrong signs that I did not understand. The interpreter kept signing words wrong so I ended up not paying attention to the interpreter and tried my best to read the teacher's lips.

I want to say thank you for your time to listen to my presentation.

Liza- I also had experienced with uncertificated interpreters as well. As a mom, I don't want to see my child struggle in school or stay behind in school. I've seen his frustrated face when he arrived home, it breaks my heart. No parents should deal with their emotions when they are frustrated with unqualified interpreters. My child or any deaf children deserve better. It's important for them to have equal access. Only people who can provide equal access are certificated interpreters because they were taught how to modify to meet children's needs.

I also want to empathized that I do not know who to report or file a complaint because in the past we had CDHI, if there were any concern about an interpreter, I would be able to speak with the director but right now there's no CHDI. So where or who do I complain to. We need a monitoring board. The monitoring board can enforce the law. My son depends on a good qualified interpreter to get his language.

Thank you for listening. I hope you will support this bill as amended to include the Monitoring Board and the necessary staff person.