



Michigan
Registry of
Interpreters
for the
Deaf



Hearing Loss
Association
of Michigan

Interpreter Bill in Michigan: House Bill 4208 and Senate Bill 25

Dear friends and colleagues,

Michigan currently has an exciting opportunity before us!

This summer will be the 25th anniversary of the “Deaf Person’s Interpreter Act.” While this legislation has been successful and benefited many people, we now have the opportunity to advance our legislation to include medical, education, financial, employment, government, and legal settings as well.

Please take action and get involved on this issue by visiting the informative website: www.mcddc-dodhh.org and sending messages to our state legislators!

The Senate Judiciary Committee with Chair Senator Kuipers is overseeing Senate Bill 25 and the House Regulatory Reform Committee with Chair Representative Farrah will be discussing House Bill 4208.

Send a letter to the following decision maker(s) in your area:

http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp
<http://senate.michigan.gov/>

Your MI Supporters for the Deaf,
Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing
Communities,

HLA-MI, MDA, and MIRID

Below is a sample letter:

Subject: Support & Provide Access for Deaf,
Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing People

Dear [insert name],

It is vital that we maintain the quality of sign language interpreter and oral services for the Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing people in the state of Michigan.

HB 4208 and SB 25 would allow us to improve upon an outdated “Deaf Person’s Interpreter Act, PA 204 of 1982” and provide greater accessibility for all citizens in Michigan. This legislation would also define qualified interpreters and add penalties for those interpreters who pose as qualified interpreters and those who intentionally hire unqualified interpreters.

Please consider:

1. Michigan may have as many as 1.4 million Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing citizens; and
2. The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) already runs a program for testing of interpreters; and
3. Many other states have similar legislation to protect their Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing citizens.

Sincerely,

[your name]

