



MICHIGAN

March 7, 2022

To the Families, Children, and Seniors Committee Chair Rodney Wakeman and the committee members,

Representative Ben Frederick is sponsoring the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) bill. This landmark piece of legislation would greatly improve education in the State of Michigan for our deaf and hard of hearing students ages 0-5.

This is a critical piece of legislation. Our deaf and hard of hearing students have been neglected far too long. LEAD-K is a National campaign that was started in 2012 in order to counteract the devastating language delay and deprivation that our children are facing.

This legislation would develop a resource for parents/legal guardian, monitor and track a child's expressive and receptive language acquisition and developmental stages, including milestones, appropriate language assessments and delivery.

This bill has the potential to vastly improve the way in which services, assessment and parent resources are available to deaf and hard of hearing students and their families.

Currently, Michigan does not have any formal statewide system of monitoring, tracking and reporting language benchmarks, both in American Sign Language (ASL) and English for our deaf and hard of hearing population ages 0-5. This is all leading to the goal of having the student KINDERGARTEN READY!

LEAD-K's focus is:

- Language Equality and Acquisition
- Parent Resource
- Kindergarten Ready

The LEAD-K Michigan Core Team urges you to support HB 5777.

Sincerely,

Freida Morrison, LEAD-K Michigan Spokesperson

LEAD-K Michigan Core Team Members

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