

HCAD invites you to a

# TOWN HALL MEETING



**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

**10 AM – 1 PM**

**Savage Library (Da Vinci Room)**

**9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, Maryland**

**Topic:**

**To discuss the need for Sign Language  
Interpreter Licensure (SLIL) in Maryland**

**Light refreshments will be served**

*Note: If you need reasonable accommodation, please  
let us know on or before 2/21/2020 at  
[hcadspokesperson@gmail.com](mailto:hcadspokesperson@gmail.com)*



<https://www.facebook.com/HCADeaf>



# Town Hall Meeting

Savage Library

2/29/2020

# Introduction

**Moderator:** Mark Myers

**Presenters:** Fred Hartman & Tina Joyner



## **FYI**

- Bathroom
- Fire Exit
- Refreshment



## Meeting Rules

- Be polite and respectful.
- Wait to be recognized.
- No profanity.
- Stick to the topic of discussion.
- Listen to moderator.
- No side conversations.

## **Meeting Timeline**

- Start between 10:15 to 10:30am
- Q & A at/by Noon
- Finish by 12:30pm
- Leave this room by 12:45pm

# HCAD Officers



**President:** Bridget McCarthy  
**Vice-President:** Elke Martin  
**Secretary:** Kathryn Harrington  
**Treasurer:** Suzi Behun  
**Social Director:** Teresa Murbach  
**Members-at-large:**

- Fred Hartman,
- Mike Gantz,
- David Tossman,
- Heidi Burghardt,
- Hillel Goldberg,
- Jay Scotton

# Why is HCAD hosting this town hall meeting?

- **Through the years, the HCAD board has heard from our members and the community on the need for SLIL (Sign Language Interpreter Licensure) in Howard County and statewide.**
- **Today, we will discuss more about SLIL in Maryland.**

*Note: We will not be discussing any general SLI bills (previous and/or current) – only on the topic of “licensure” and other subjects.*





## **Audience Polling**

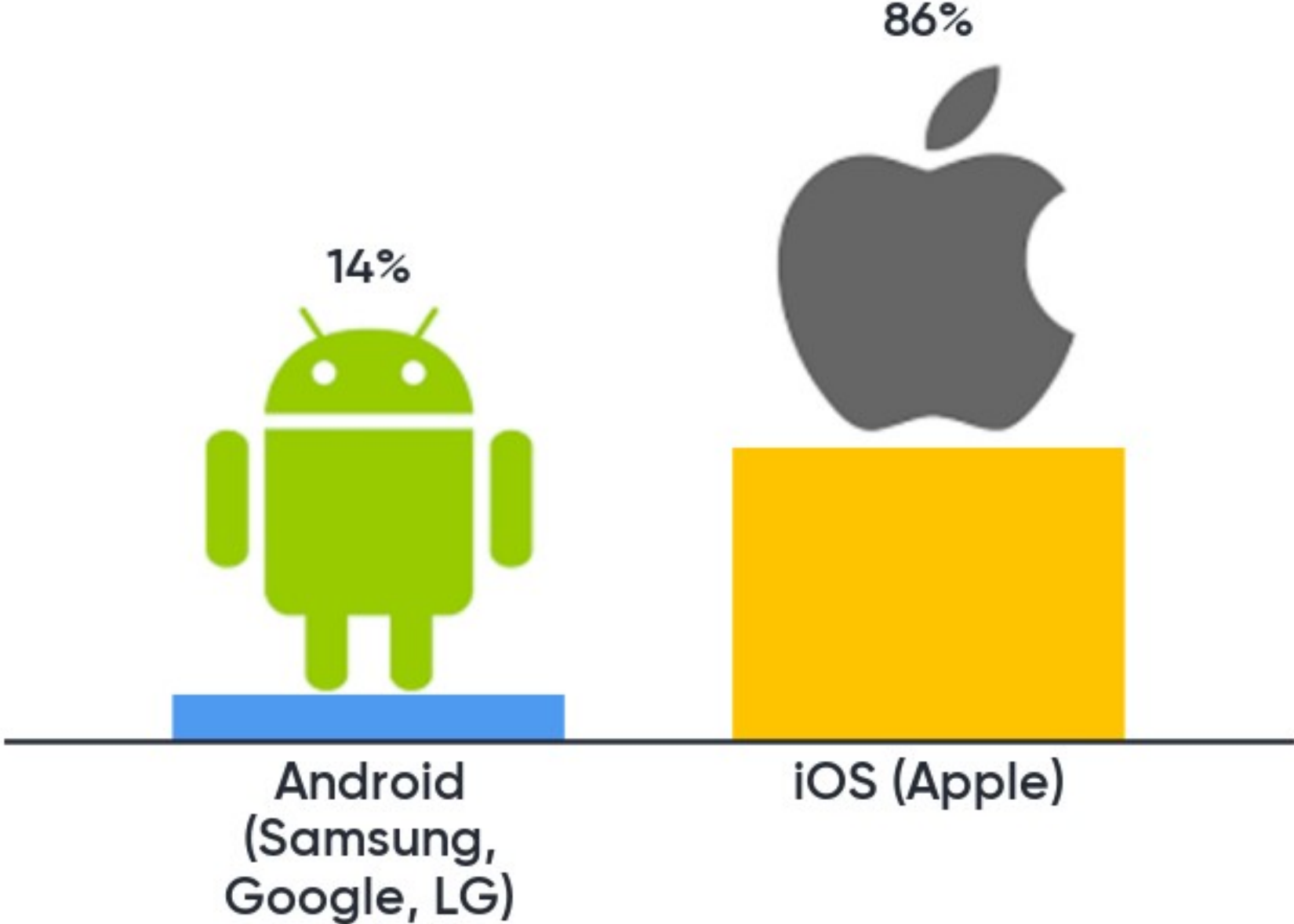
- Real-time data collection & display.
- Vote using your mobile phone.
- No app, use web browser.
- Sign into HC library's WiFi.
- One vote per question.
- Anonymous (no personal info)



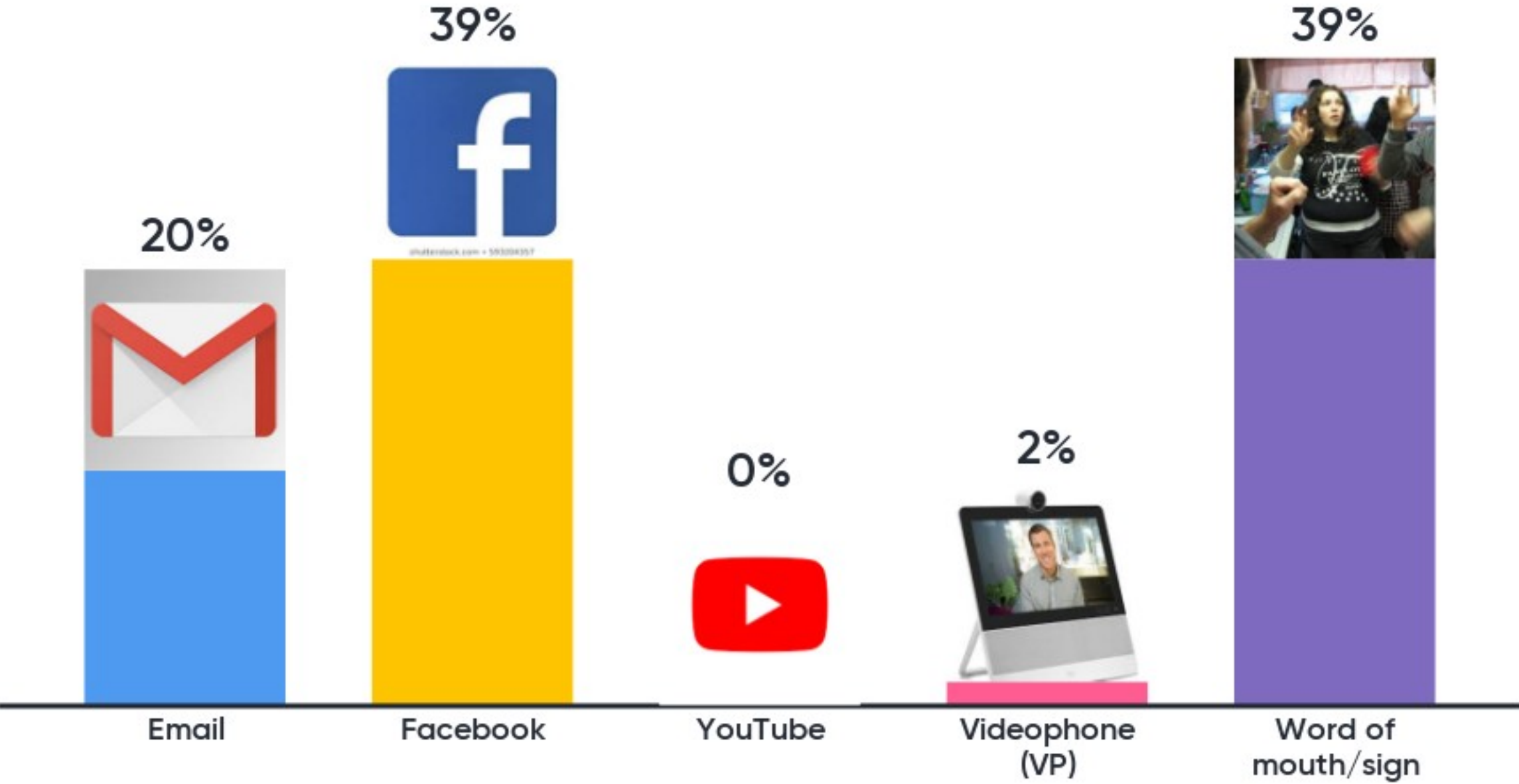
## **Icebreaker**

- We will be asking some questions.
- Use your phone to vote.
- If you do not have a phone, partner with someone who does.
- Please be factual/truthful - your vote/opinion counts.

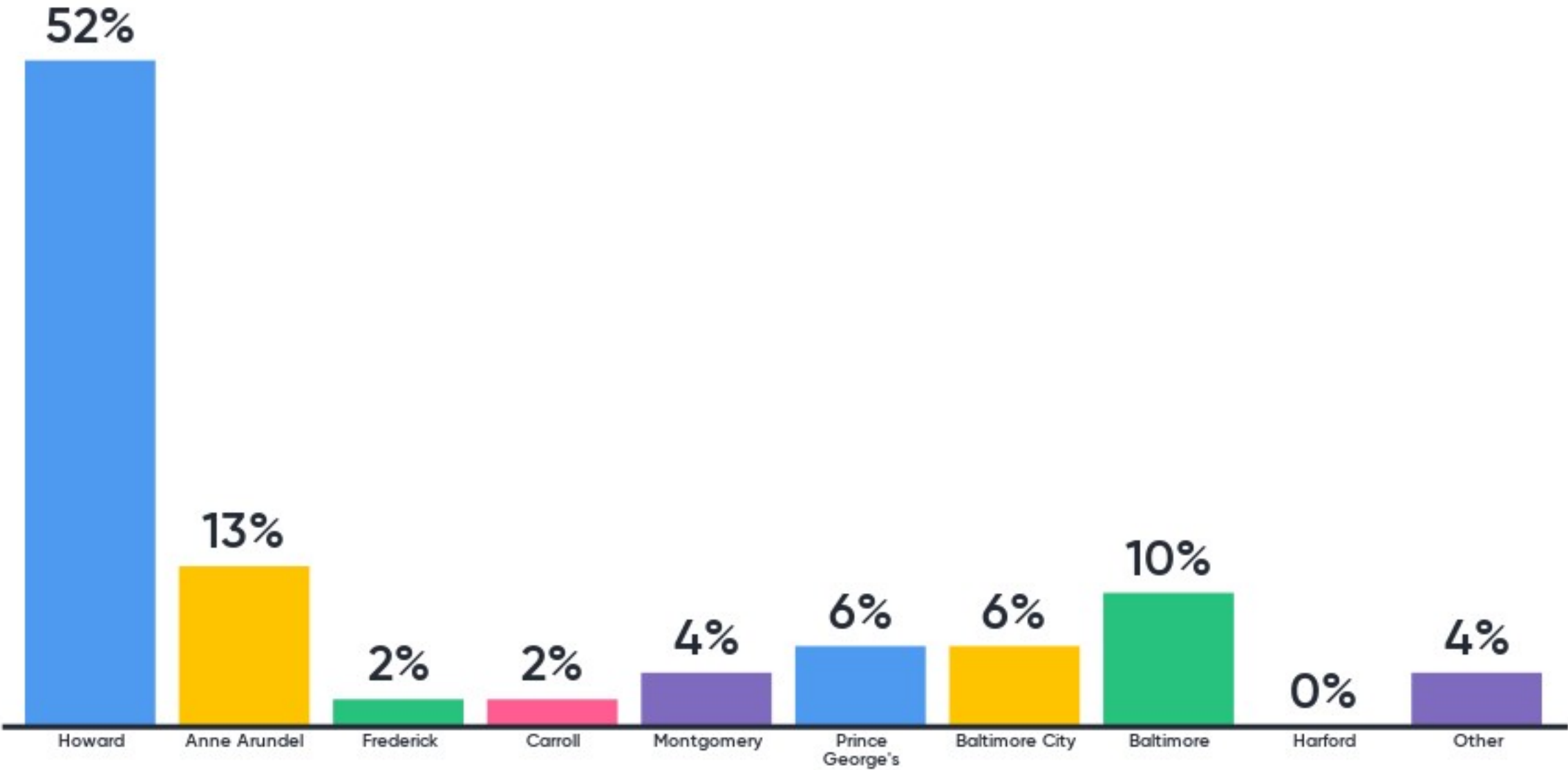
# Which mobile phone operating system are you using?



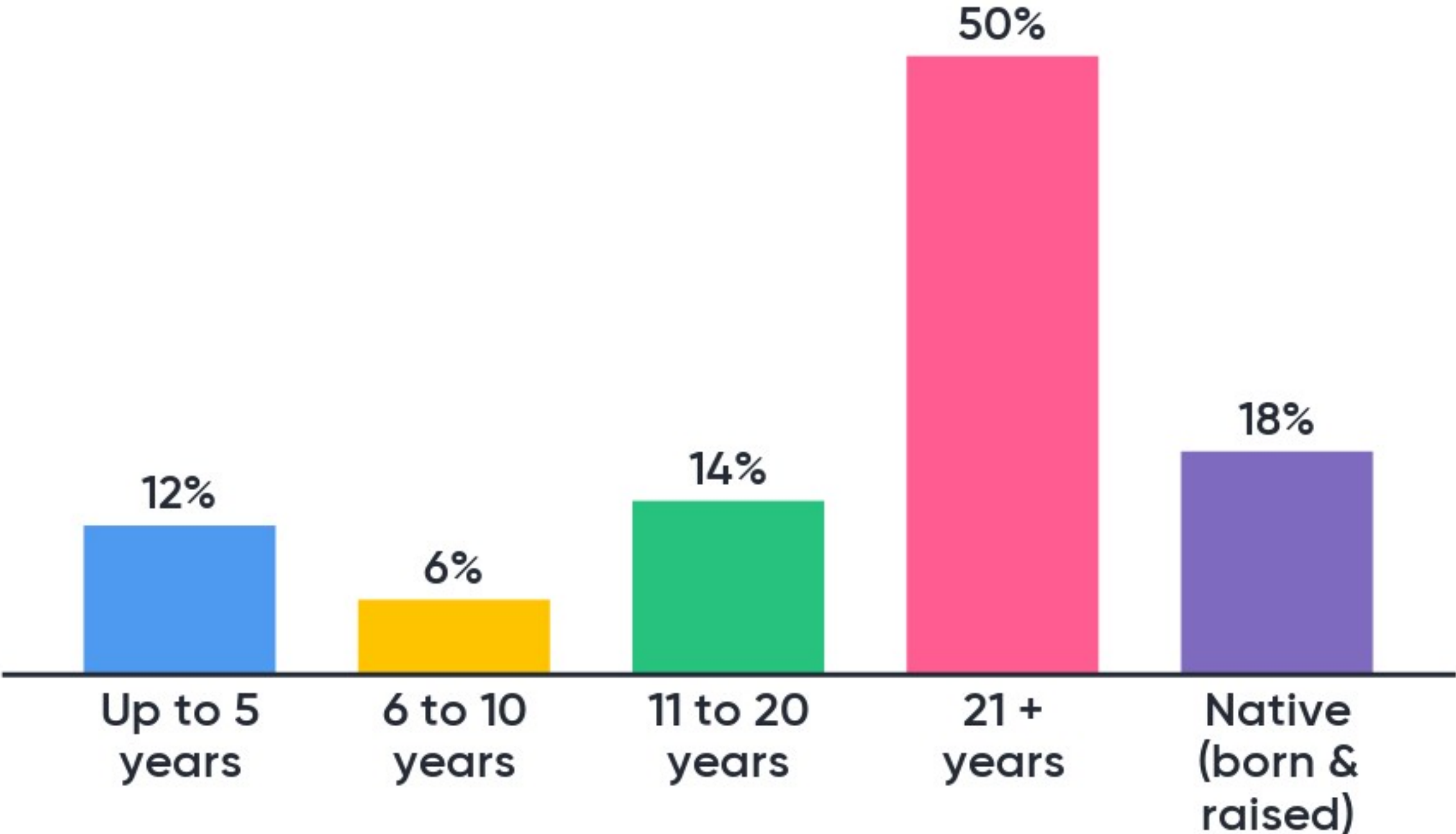
# How did you find out about this town hall meeting?



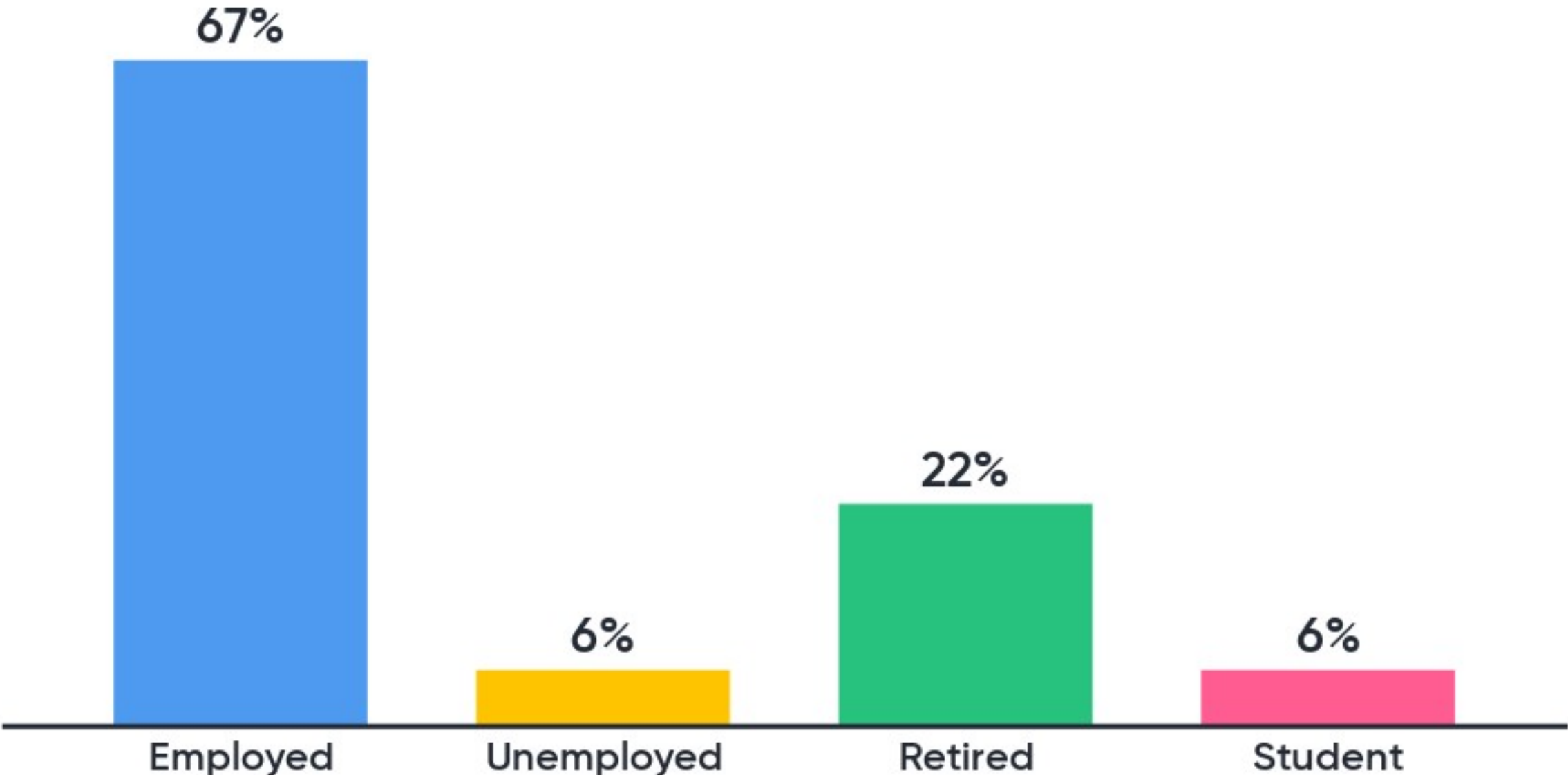
# Which Maryland county are you from?



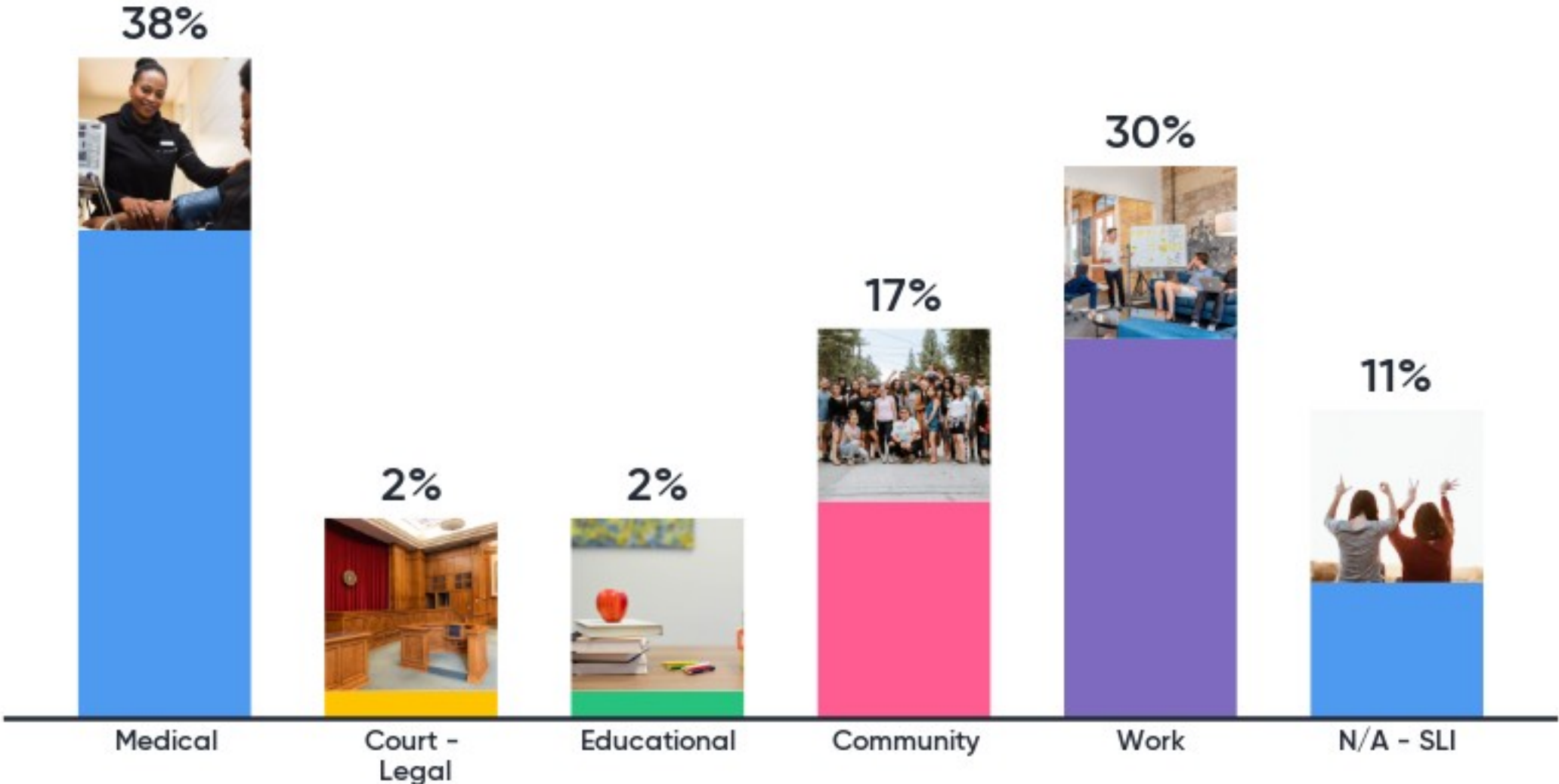
# How long have you lived in Maryland?



# What is your "status" at this time?

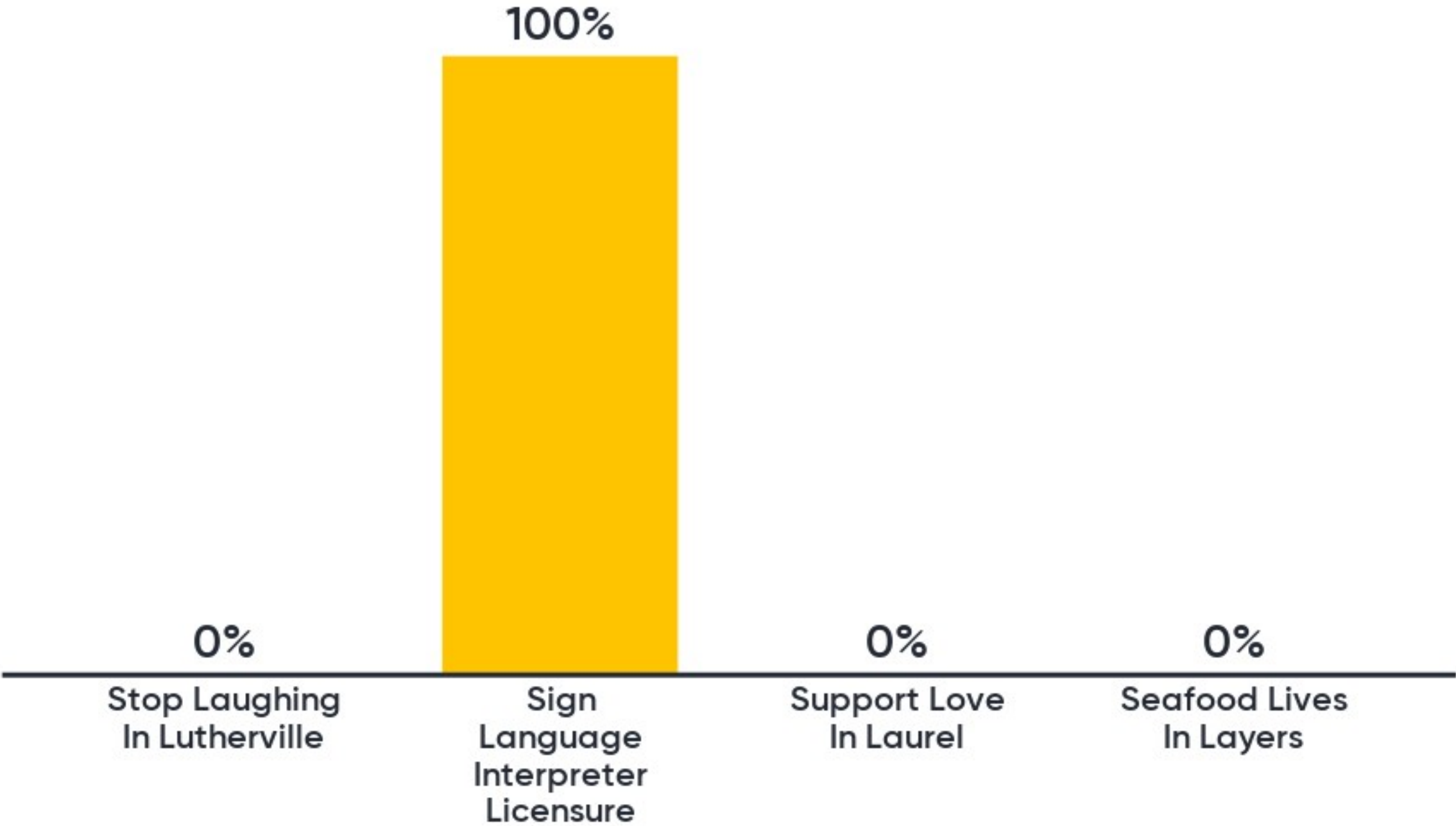


# What type of sign language interpreting (SLI) situation do you use most often?

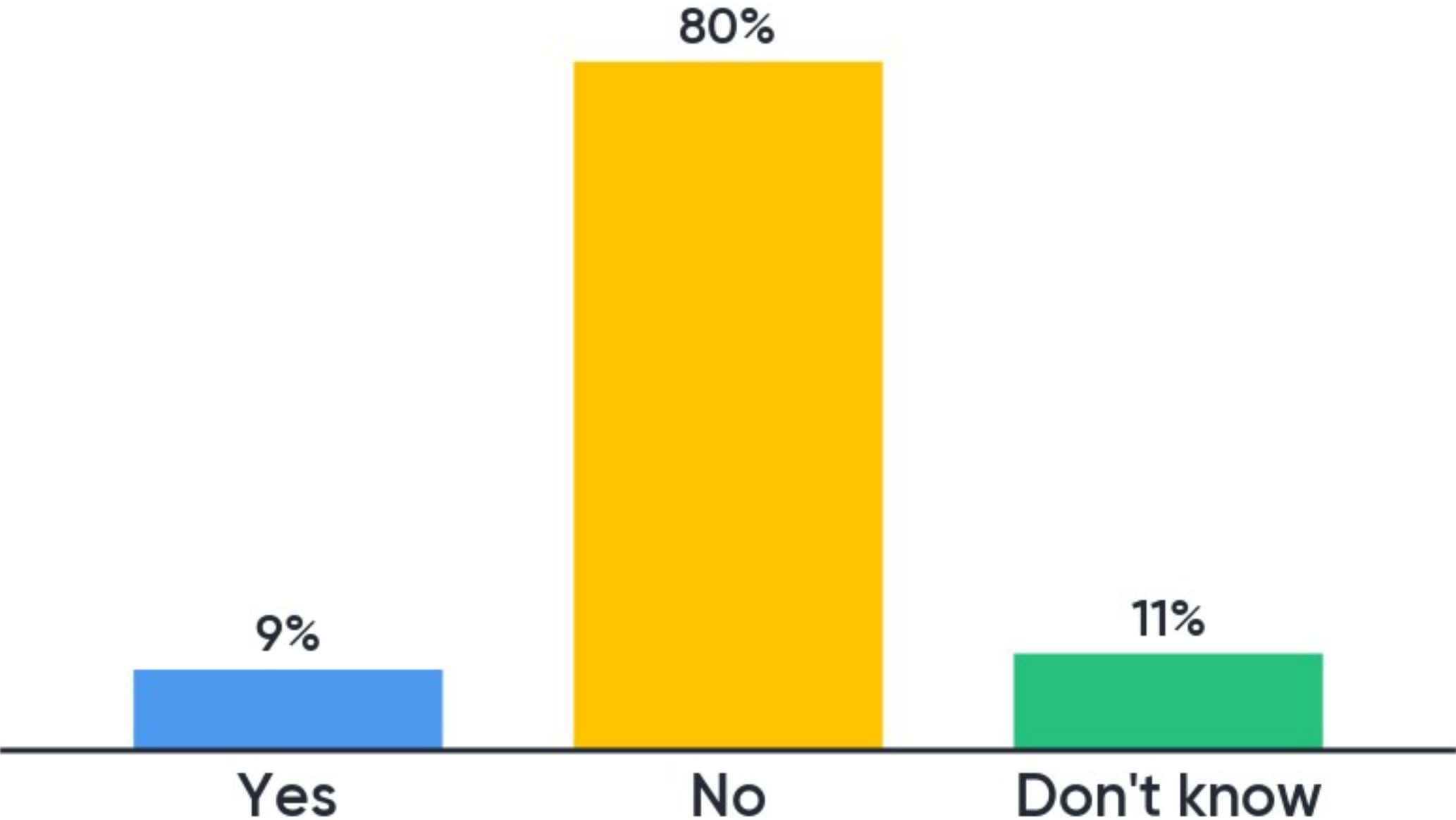




# What does SLIL stand for?



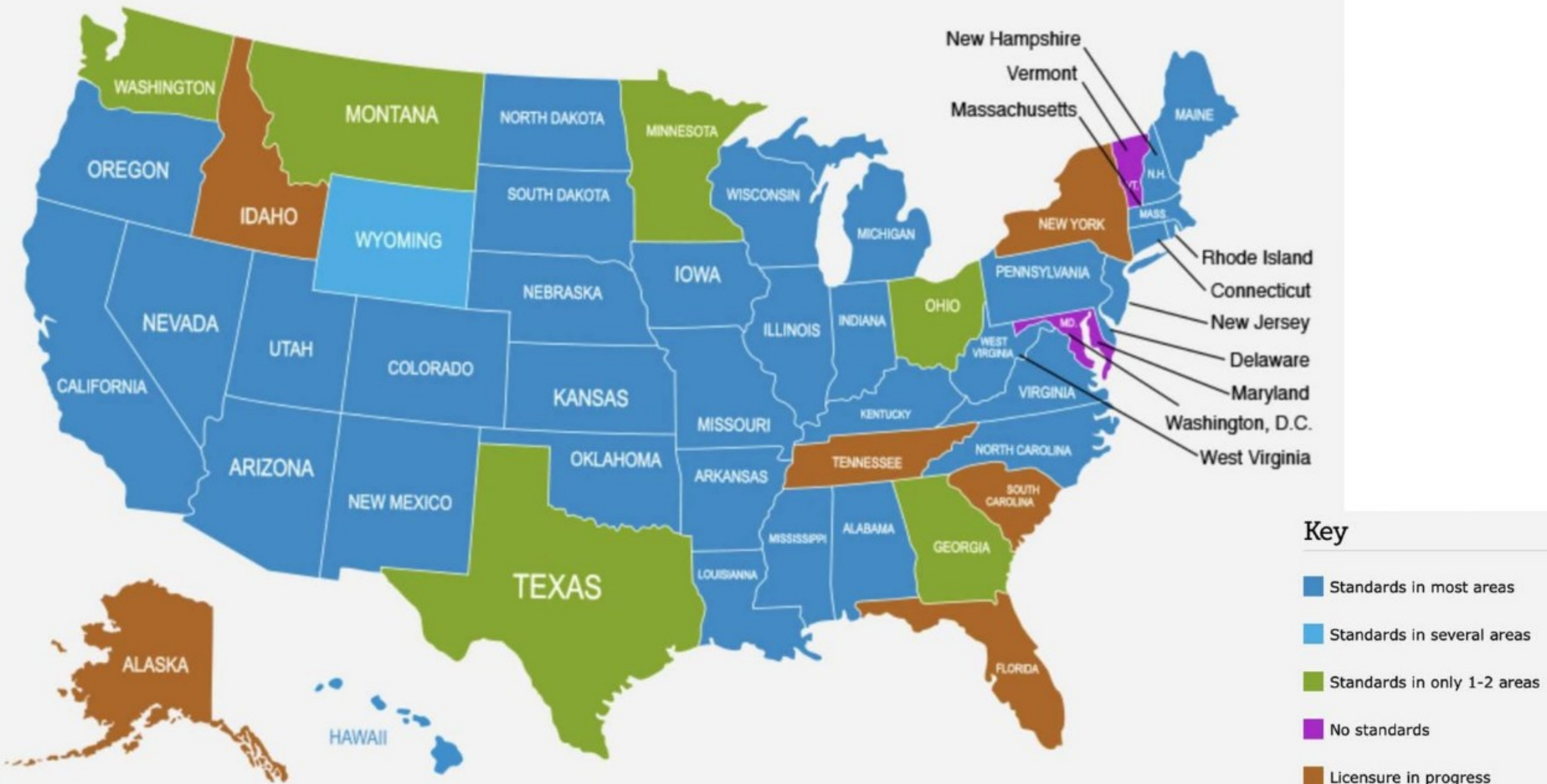
# Does Maryland have a SLIL requirement at this time?



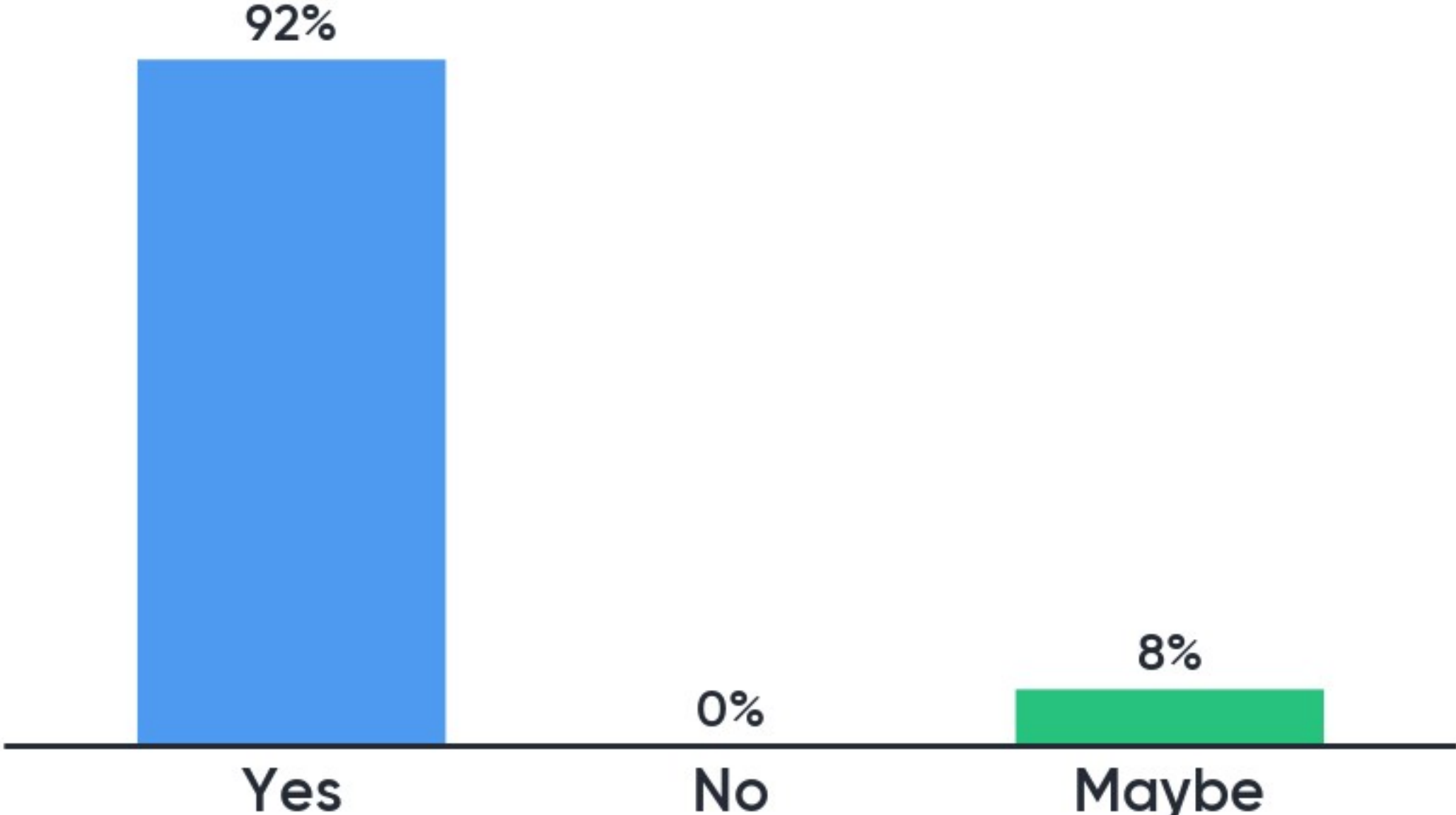
# Status of Sign Language Interpreter Rules in the Mid-Atlantic

- **NO:** MD and DC
- **YES:** PA, WV, VA, NC and DE

# Interpreter Licensure by State



# Do you support the need for SLIL in Maryland?



# HCAD's SLIL Position

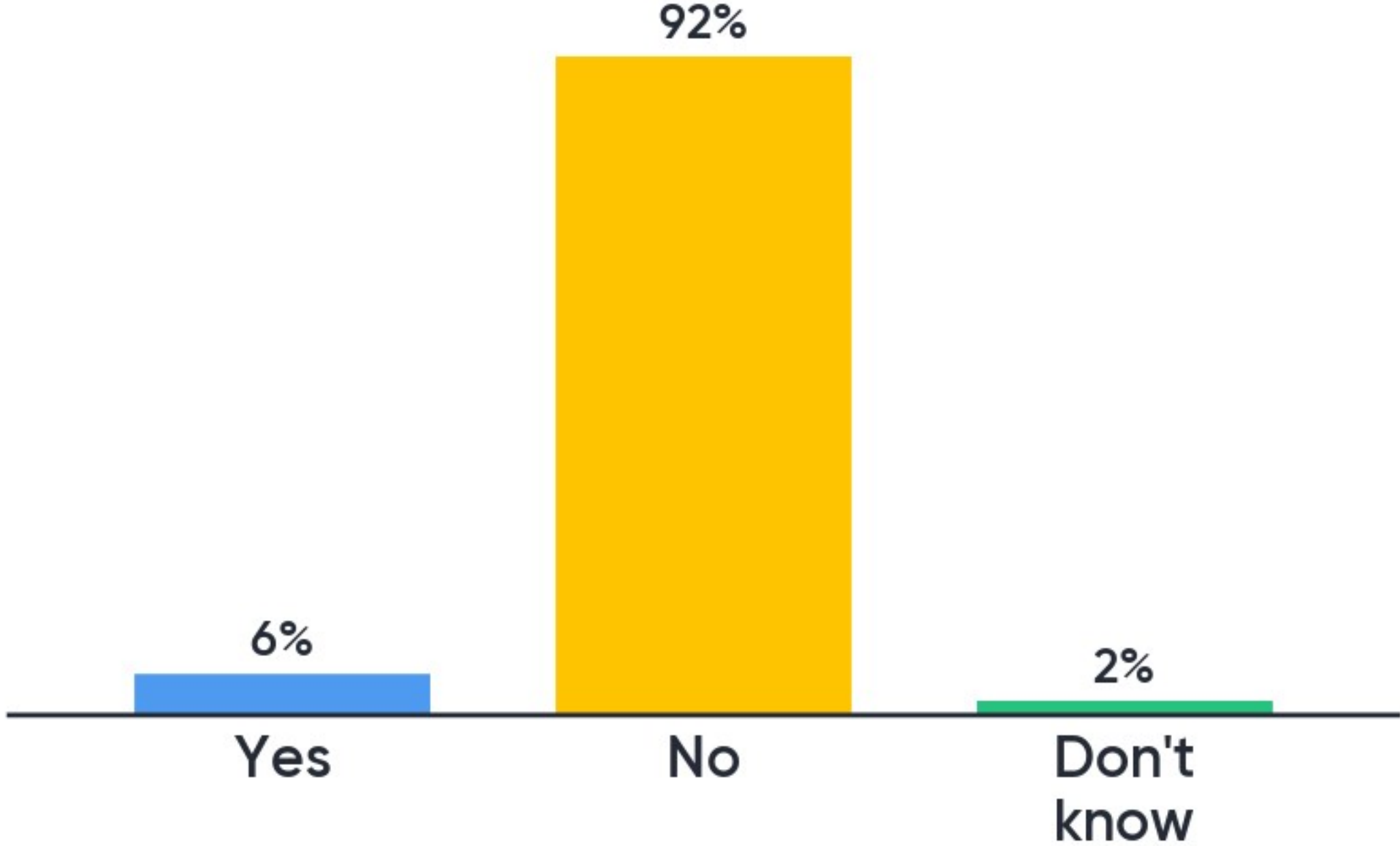
- **Board and members agree that there is a critical need to have Sign Language Interpreting Licensure (SLIL) established in Maryland.**
- **Why? To protect the D/HH community as well as entities that use and pay for the service (i.e. medical [clinic/hospital], legal/court, performing arts, government [federal, state, county, and local], businesses, and workplace).**

# **HCAD's SLIL Position – cont.**

**For a long time, D/HH community in Maryland has paid the price with unqualified interpreters which resulted in:**

- wrong medical diagnosis,**
- incorrect legal decisions,**
- tarnished reputation in the workplace/community, or**
- bad grades/wrong information (educational).**

# Are 'certification' and 'licensure' the same?





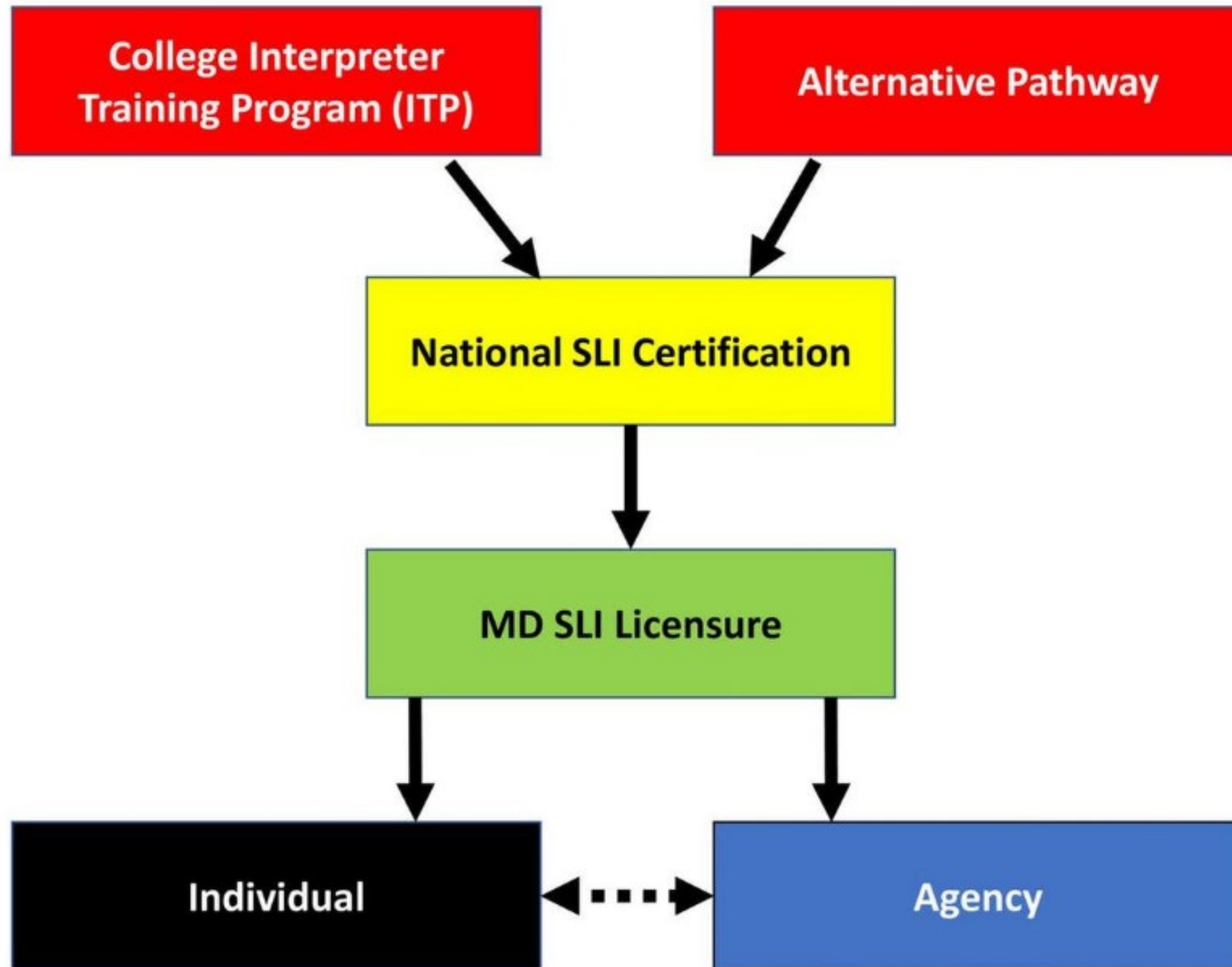
# Certification

**National SLI standard and assessment provided by:**

- **RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf)**
- **BEI (Board of Evaluation of Interpreters)**

# Licensure

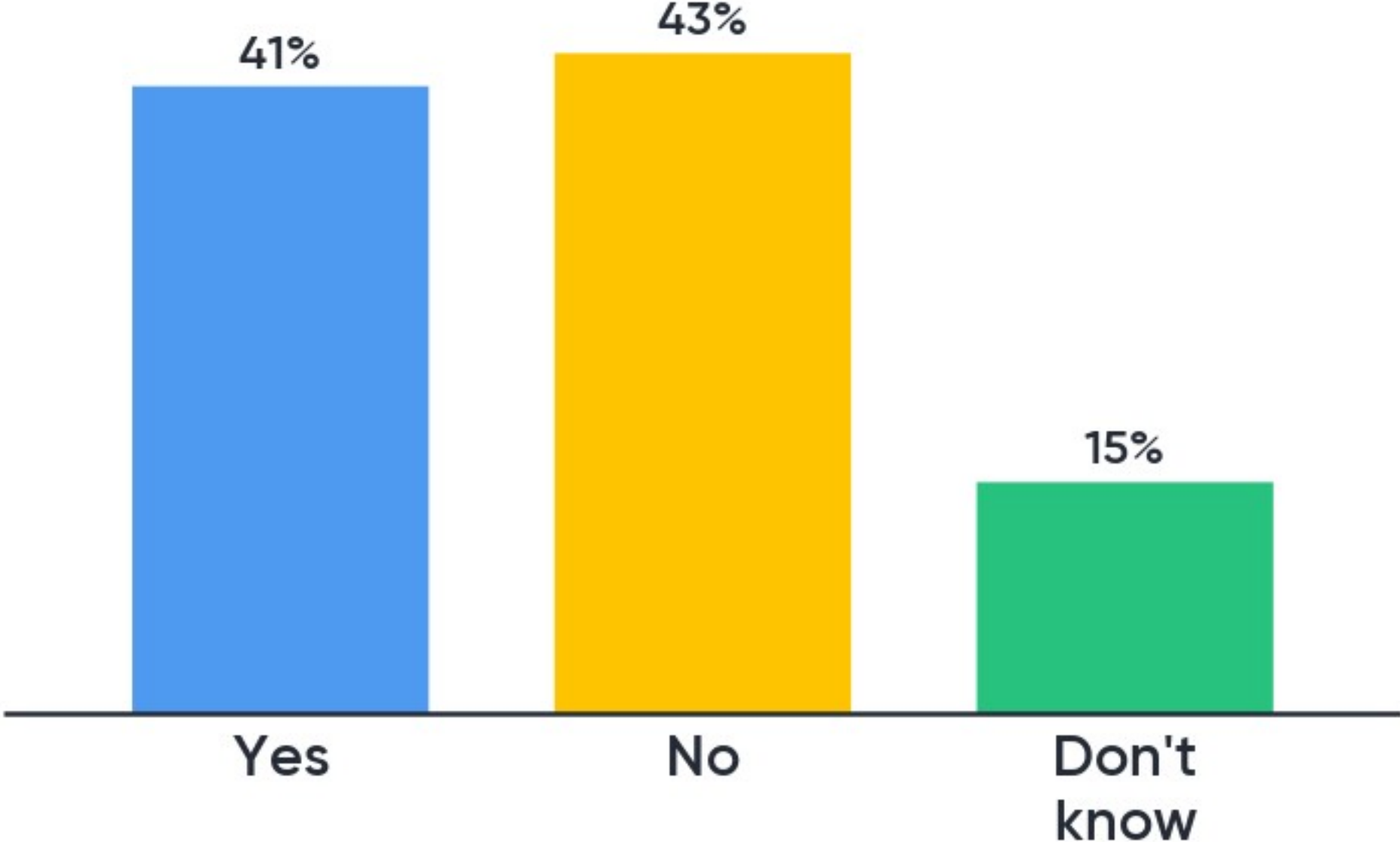
- **To ensure that the SLI applicant is qualified and meets a number of requirements (standard of competency) to obtain a license to work in Maryland.**
- **Provide the public with safe and accurate SLI services.**



# Who should be required to get a SLIL in Maryland?



# Can you file a complaint with a state entity regarding an SLI or SLI agency today?



# Benefits of a formal SLI complaint process

- **Can lead to disciplinary or corrective measures.**
- **Including revoking licenses and levying civil penalties.**
- **Public posting of 'violators' on website and other avenues.**

# Licensing Oversight Entities in MD

**There are a number of state entities that oversee numerous types of licensures for professionals, trade, occupations, businesses, etc.**

# Welcome to the Maryland OneStop Portal

OneStop is the central hub for Maryland State licenses, forms, certificates, permits, applications, and registrations.



## Professional

Browse professional licenses and permits for individuals.

[Browse](#)

## Organizational

Browse licenses and permits for business use.

[Browse](#)

## Personal

Browse licenses, permits, and certification for personal use.

[Browse](#)



**Secretary of State**

5 Applications Available

**Maryland State Department of Education**

3 Applications Available

**Maryland Insurance Administration**

2 Applications Available

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**

1 Application Available

**Maryland Department of Transportation**

31 Applications Available

**Maryland Department of State Police**

17 Applications Available

**Maryland Department of Environment**

68 Applications Available

**Howard County - Department of Inspections, Lice...**

8 Applications Available

**Department of Natural Resources**

94 Applications Available

**Department of Labor**

91 Applications Available

**Department of Human Services**

2 Applications Available

**Department of Health**

29 Applications Available

**Department of Assessments and Taxation**

2 Applications Available

**Department of Agriculture**

21 Applications Available

# MD Dept. Of Health (MDH)

- Dentist, Dental Hygienist
- Audiologist, Speech Pathologist, Hearing Aid Dispensers
- Nursing, Physicians, Nursing Home
- Social Work, Psychology, Counselors
- Morticians, Child Care
- Pharmacy, Optometry

## **MD Dept. of Agriculture (MDA)**

- **Pest Control Consultant, Pesticide Business**
- **Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician , Veterinarian Hospital**
- **Animal Control Facility, Horse Stable**

## **MD Dept. of Education (MDE)**

- Teacher
- Administrative, Supervisory
- Specialist

## **MD Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)**

- Drivers License
- Commercial Drivers License (CDL)

## **MD Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)**

- Hunting
- Fishing

## **Dept. of Labor & Licensing (DLLR)**

- Plumbing
- Master Electrician
- Home Improvement
- HVAC
- Barbers
- Land Surveyor

# HCAD's Position - SLIL Licensing Entity

**Supports the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) as the ideal entity to perform this governing/oversight function of SLIL.**





November 23, 2019

Governor Larry Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD), I respectfully request that you establish regulations for sign language interpreters (SLI) through the Governor's Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ODHH). There is rampant abuse by fraudulent and unqualified sign language interpreters. Director Kelby Brick has extensive expertise in the field of sign language interpreting and can bring together various stakeholders to develop appropriate regulations that will meet the state's needs.

- The majority of the States in the United States have established some form sign language interpreter licensure requirement and Maryland is one of the few that don't.
- Maryland deaf and hard of hearing constituents should have access to certified, qualified and effective sign language interpreters and have protections in place to protect them against inept and/or fraudulent interpreters and interpreting agencies.
- It is a significant tragedy in our state that courts, hospitals, government, businesses and all other venues are unable to determine whether a given sign language interpreter being used/hired is certified, qualified and effective, and be held accountable for not ensuring that constituents are being represented effectively.
- Deaf and hard of hearing individuals rely on certified, qualified, effective, and ethical interpreters to be successful in their jobs, raise their families, participate in the community, and live healthy lives in Maryland. Sign language interpreters (SLI) are used in a variety of scenarios from job interviews to medical appointments and family funerals; every aspect of life can be adversely impacted by unqualified sign language interpreters. Unfortunately, inept sign language interpreters are all too common without the needed licensing and vetting processes in Maryland.

Last but not least, there is currently no system in place to formally file a grievance against sign language interpreters and/or agencies who do are not certified and qualified to work in the State of Maryland. This is why a SLI regulations are needed: to provide communication rights and protection of the deaf and hard of hearing constituents in Maryland.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bridget McCarthy  
President

CC: Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI



# THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE Deaf & Hard of Hearing



**LIBERAL LEAVE**  
Certain Areas - Click for Details

[LEGISLATION](#) [RESOURCES](#) [ARCHIVES](#)



## About the Office

- > [Responsibilities](#)
- > [Our Staff](#)
- > [Featured News](#)
- > [Advisory Council and Town Hall Meetings](#)
- > [2017 Annual Report](#)

## Resources

- > [Deaf Ecosystem](#)
- > [DHH Owned Business](#)

## Featured Stories



First Lady Yumi Hogan joins the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at annual Legislative Awareness Day

## News & Alerts

Tweets by [@MarylandGODHH](#)



In honor of @GovLarryHogan's proclamation of 2020 as the Year of the Woman & this month being #BlackHistoryMonth, we are recognizing Black Deaf Women who made a difference in Maryland.

Felicia Williams is a professor, mentor, and advocate.

Full post:

# Why does HCAD recommend MD ODHH?

- **Only state level organization (established in 2001) that promotes the general welfare of D/HH individuals in MD.**
- **Addresses policy gaps, provides expertise related to D/HH issues, and facilitates the ability to access resources and services.**
- **ODHH receives advice and support from the MD Advisory Council on the D/HH (MACDHH).**
- **Sixteen (16) states use ODHH/Commission for SLIL:**
  - **PA, WV, VA, IL, NM, OR, AZ, TX, KS, NE, MN, LA, MS, KY, NC, MA, except MD.**

# MD ODHH Accomplishments

- Referred constituents to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCR) for follow-up regarding complaints fraudulent practices involving unqualified sign language.
- In FY17, worked with business owners, interpreters, constituents, and government officials to develop a policy framework to address fraudulent and unqualified sign language interpreters in Maryland.
- Promoted the growth and use of the Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) profession, ensuring that CDIs are used in state emergency broadcasts, the Governor's State of the State address, public official meetings, and meetings that involve Deafblind constituents.
- Director Brick provided a workshop on state emergency platform interpreting in Maryland at the PCRID (Potomac Chapter – RID) in 2016.

# MD ODHH Accomplishments – cont.

- **Developed and distributed a memorandum to media outlets in Maryland regarding the on-screen framing of the speaker and interpreter ensuring that the interpreter is fully on-screen rather than being cropped off-screen.**
- **Hosted country's first Deaf Business Summit an event exclusively for Deaf and hard of hearing business owners (60), supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship among the Deaf and hard of hearing business community.**
- **Worked with the Department of Health and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program to modify the letter sent to parents of infants identified as Deaf or hard of hearing stating that it is critical to receive exposure to language immediately**

# MD ODHH Accomplishments – cont.

- Increased the availability of mental health providers who are fluent in ASL to Deaf and hard of hearing individuals through telehealth.
- Maryland is the first state where Medicaid specifically permits and reimburses qualified providers such as psychologists and social workers who are fluent in ASL.
- Office worked with various agencies to ensure that their resources, content, and videos are captioned.
- For a listing of more accomplishments and details, go to <https://odhh.maryland.gov/news-2/> and see “Annual Reports”.



Maryland  
FOR THE BETTER

Governor's  
Coordinating  
Offices

# Governor's Coordinating Offices

The Governor's Coordinating Offices - seven formerly independent offices consolidated by Governor Larry Hogan into one unified organization using a shared services business model to reduce costs and connect Marylanders with needed resources statewide - released their 2019 Impact Report in serving Marylanders.

## CHILDREN

Nearly \$20 million awarded to Local Management Boards community initiatives

Funded more than 100 statewide services

Selected as Model State by National Governors Association

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

\$8.3 Million in federal surplus property donated to Marylanders in need

**Volunteer Maryland:** 6,100 volunteers mobilized to serve 50,000 hours and 20,000 Marylanders

**Banneker Douglass Museum:** 9,000 visitors to during Year of Frederick Douglass

## CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION

140,000 crime victims assisted in 2019

Provided \$193 million in funding for statewide programs in 2019

Provided \$60 million in victim services grants in 2019

## DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Employment rates more than doubled for Deaf and hard of hearing employees

Over 70 Deaf and hard of hearing owned business

Collaboration across 100 agencies and departments to increase access and opportunities

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

America's #1 Open Data Portal

Collected 160,000 Governor's Customer Service Initiative surveys from Marylanders: 88% satisfaction rate

"Rising Star State" during National Governors Association

## SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

\$5 million awarded in AmeriCorps grants and Top 10 AmeriCity

25,000 Maryland volunteers recognized

6,500 Governor's Service Certificates issued

## SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS

17,000 Maryland small businesses served

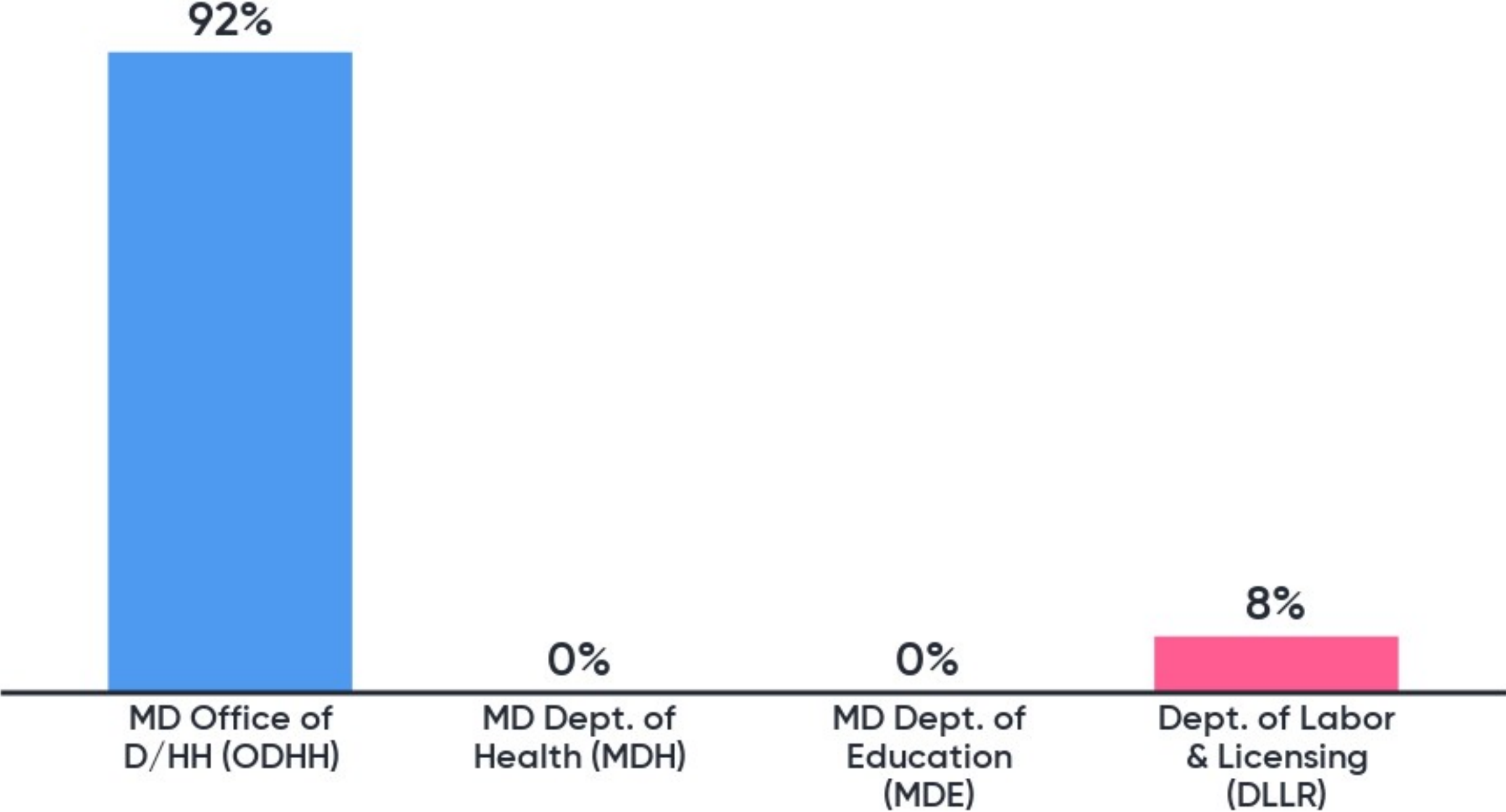
Hosted 35 training events and procurement connection workshops

Participated in 174 statewide outreach events

For detailed information visit us at [gco.maryland.gov](http://gco.maryland.gov)

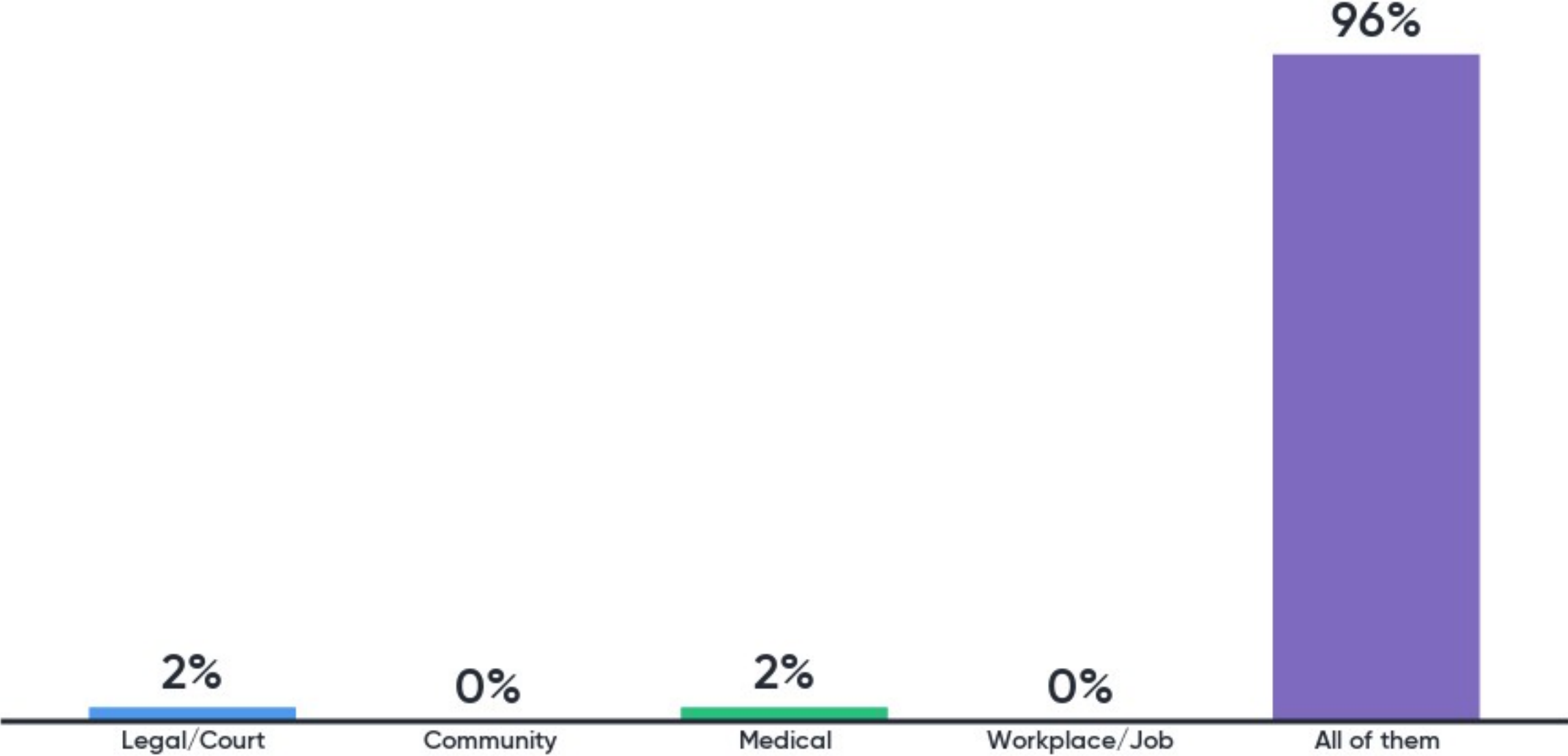


# Who should govern/oversee the MD SLIL program?





# What type of situations should the MD SLIL cover?



# What about educational interpreting?

- **Currently, there is a House Bill (HB) called "HB0794" being reviewed by legislators.**
- **Requiring the State Bd. of Educ. and the Prof. Standards & Teacher Educ. Bd. to develop certain rules and regs. for the certification of educ. interp.**
- **In the House - Hearing on 2/21/2020 was completed, no vote yet. Sixteen (16) delegate sponsors.**

# HCAD Q & A

**Q1: What are HCAD's thoughts/comments about the recent MDAD-PCRID draft bill (1/20/2020)?**

*A1: The major concern we have is the creation of "the board" that was not affiliated with a qualified state entity like MD Governor's ODHH. Why start from scratch when we have an established & qualified entity like MD ODHH?*

## HCAD Q & A – cont.

**Q2: Will HCAD be drafting their own SLIL bill for submission to the MD legislators in 2021?**

*A2: Right now, it is too early to say, whether we will take that route or not. At this time, HCAD's goal is to collect feedback from the community throughout Maryland and solicit support from all Marylanders to ask Governor Hogan to assign MD ODHH to take the lead on SLIL effort in 2020 and beyond.*

# HCAD Q & A – cont.

## **Q3: Reasons why I'm not in support of SLIL in MD:**

- **Will cause shortage of SLI;**
- **Can't use a CODA as SLI, since this person is not certified;**
- **Licenses are expensive – can't afford.**

## HCAD Q & A – cont.

*A3: Yes, there will be some “pain” during the initial five to ten years after the SLIL is in place.*

*Question is – do we want to overcome the pain now or later.*

*Best to do it now as we do not want to be ‘left’ behind (last one) with SLIL in Maryland.*

## HCAD Q & A – cont.

*A3: A requirement can be added to the SLIL bill called “provisional license” that can address these type of situations – CODA, recent graduate of ITP (college), etc.*

*Provisional licensing will allow a given SLI the opportunity to meet the criteria to qualify for a general license over a certain time period.*

## HCAD Q & A – cont.

*A3: The average cost of obtaining a license for SLI across the U.S., ranges from \$20 to \$250 every 1-2 years.*

*This is comparable with other occupational license fee for plumbers, electrician, lawyers, HVAC, teacher, nurse, etc.*

*Application fee for doctor, land surveyor in Maryland is +/- \$790.*



# Public Q & A

**You have two ways to ask a question:**

- **Phone**
- **ASL**

**Do you have any questions? (type on your phone)**



**35 questions**

**0 upvotes**

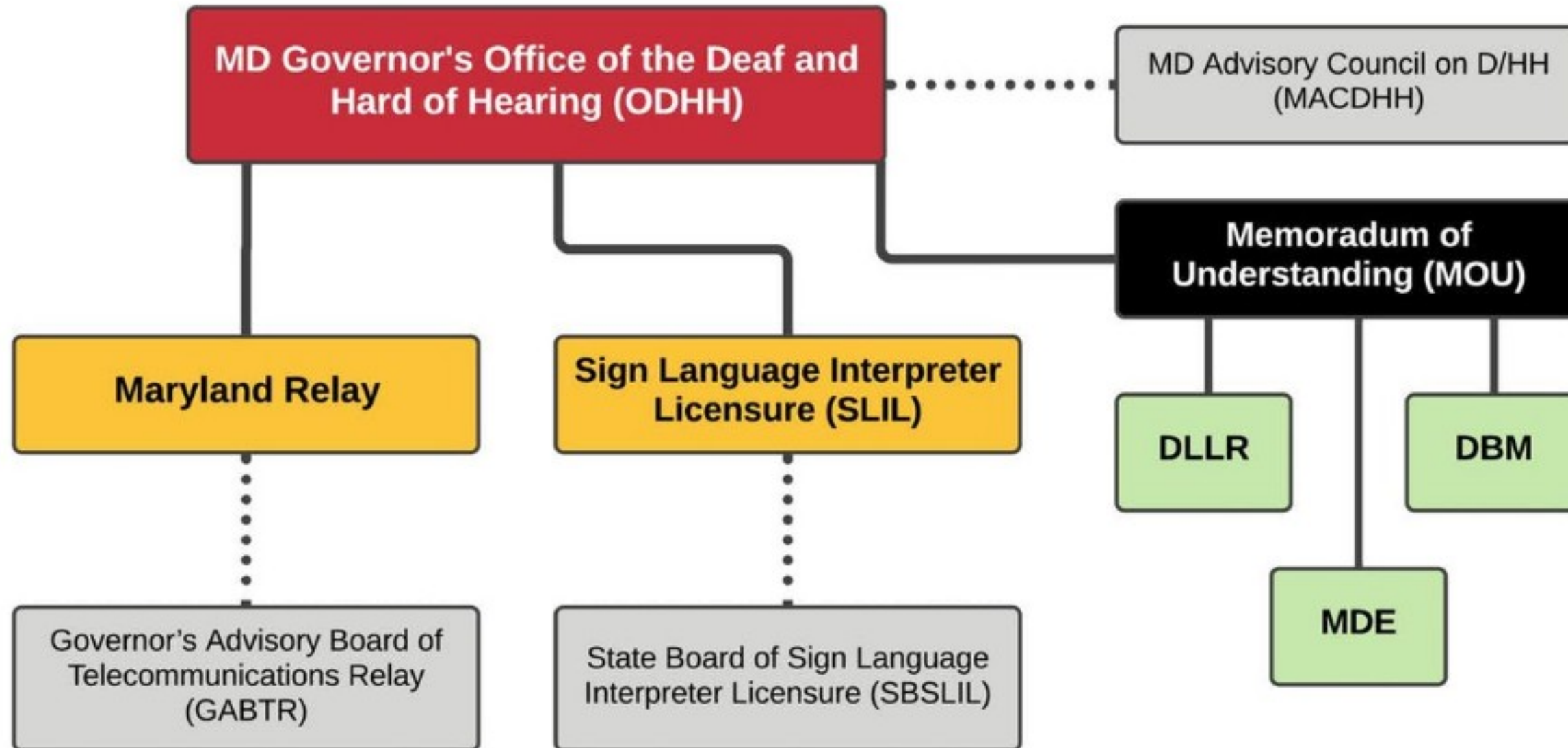
# Maryland Relay (TAM)

- **Currently, there is a House Bill (HB) "HB1003" and Senate Bill (SB) "SB0851" being reviewed by legislators.**
- **Transferring the administration and management of the Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) and Telecommunications Devices and Distribution of Accessible Information for Disabled Individuals programs from the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) to the Department of Disabilities (DOD).**
- **Effective July 1, 2020 (if passed)**

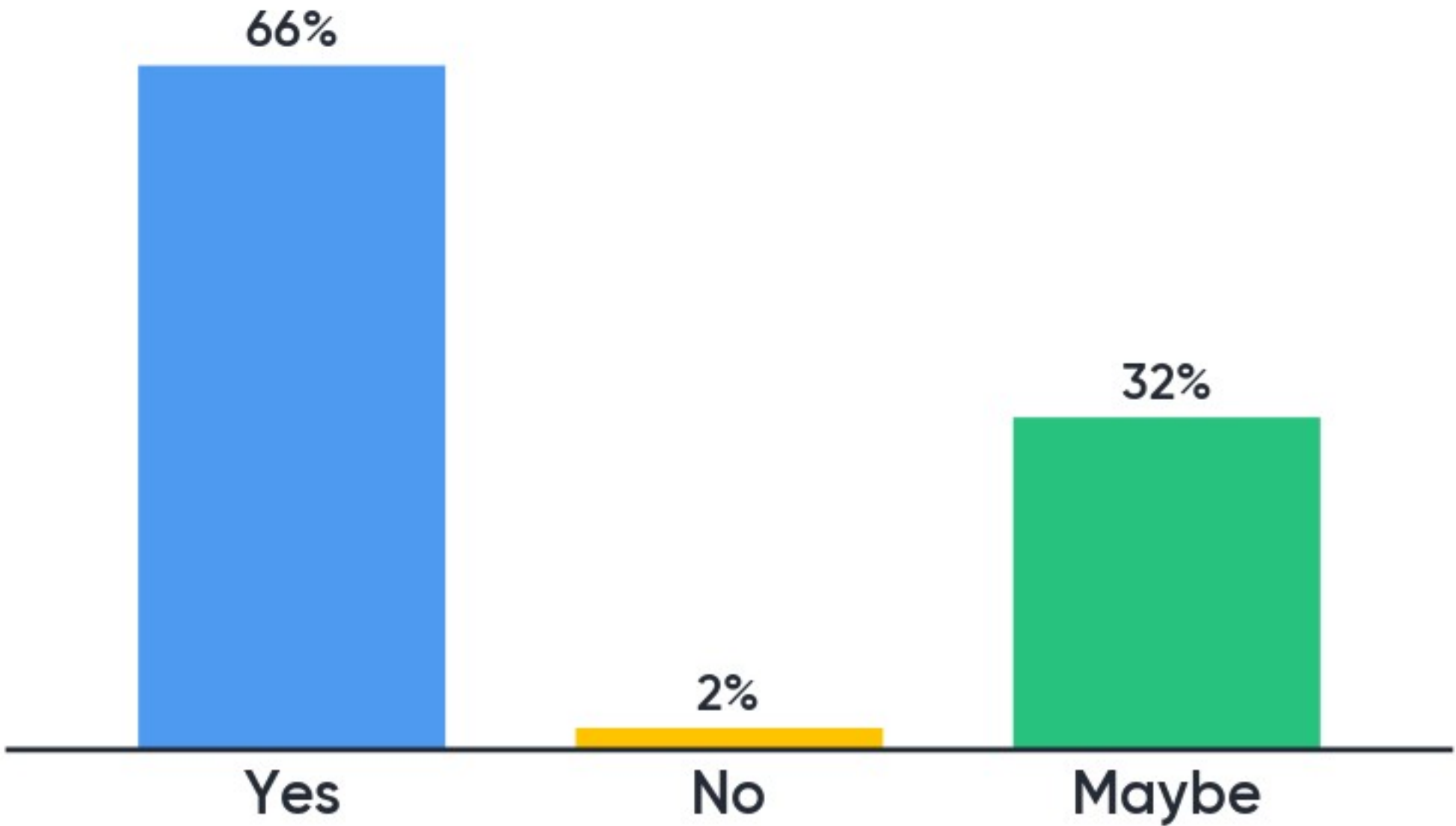
# Maryland Relay (TAM) – cont.

- **HCAD is not in support of this bill.**
- **MD Governor's ODHH should be the one handling the administration and management of TAM and MAT (MD Accessible Telecommunications Device & Distribution).**
- **HB1003 sponsored by Delegate Erek L. Barron (D/Prince George)**  
[Erek.Barron@house.state.md.us](mailto:Erek.Barron@house.state.md.us)
- **SB0851 sponsored by Senator Cheryl C. Kagan (D/Montgomery)**  
[Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us)

# HCAD's Recommendation



# Do you agree with HCAD's recommendation that TAM (MD Relay) should be moved to ODHH (new) from DOIT (current)?



# Maryland Relay (TAM) – cont.

**HCAD & MD D/HH community needs your support in providing “opposition” testimony (signed or written) at the following hearings at the MD State Capital in Annapolis:**

- **House (HB 1003) @ 1pm on 3/4/2020 (Wed.)**
- **Senate (SB0851) @ 1pm on 3/10/2020 (Tues.)**

# Legislative Information

## **STEP-BY-STEP for anyone wishing to testify on any bill in support or opposition:**

- **Must sign up in-person between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM on the day of your bill's hearing;**
- **Must provide an email address when signing up to testify;**
- **If you're also providing written testimony, you must bring ONE hardcopy *and* ONE in PDF format on USB drive;**
- **Depends on which chamber is your bill going through, follow the written testimony instructions for:**
  - **HOUSE CHAMBER** (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-jud-faqs.pdf> )
  - **SENATE CHAMBER** (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-jpr-faqs.pdf>) .

*Note: Please monitor the hearing schedule online for any scheduled changes. If bill hearings are scheduled for anytime earlier than 1:00 pm, the witness sign-up and testimony submission deadline may also change.*



# Legislative Information – cont.

House Witness Guidelines: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-jud-faqs.pdf>

Senate Witness Guidelines: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-jpr-faqs.pdf>

## ASL Videos

- Hearing Proceedings: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1124585817875787>
- How to Testify: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=204166444126615>

List of legislation monitored by the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [odhh.maryland.gov/legislation](http://odhh.maryland.gov/legislation)

**Note: You can submit written testimony without appearing in Annapolis, however - physical appearance is more memorable for legislators.**

# How can I get this legislative information after today's meeting?

**Provide us with your name and email address:**

- **Use your phone (polling) on one of our slides at end, or**
- **Write on “sign up” paper on the table in the back of this room.**

**Once we have your contact info, we will send out an email with legislative information.**

# Where in Maryland should HCAD host the next SLIL Town Hall Meeting in 2020?



**Give us one word on what you thought/felt about HCAD's town hall meeting today.**



**Would you like to help HCAD make MD SLIL a reality? If yes, please provide your name, email address, county you live in. (type in your phone)**



**Thank you for coming today - let's stay in touch!**

