CEASD

**CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
OF SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE DEAF, INC.**

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Dr. Roger N. Casey
President
McDaniel College
2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157

Dear Dr. Casey:

I write to urge you to maintain the Deaf Education program at McDaniel College. This program is necessary in light of the need for teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students nationwide and the severe shortage of these personnel.

A recent study done my organization demonstrates that more than 500 new teachers of the deaf are needed in schools for the deaf alone in the next three years (Fischgrund and Tucker, 2018). This does not even count the number needed in mainstream education programs.

Yet, while so many are needed, deaf education training programs have been diminishing. Twenty years ago there were 74 programs, today there are 62.

Dolman (2010) indicates that each program graduates an average of 10 candidates a year. McDaniel compares favorably, with an average of 10 – 15 candidates a year. More importantly, McDaniel's program is highly regarded among educational entities across the nation, and its graduates are in high demand. And 85 percent of McDaniel's candidates are deaf, the largest percentage in comparison with other programs.

If this program closes, there will not be another one created to take its place. Simply put, McDaniel College's Deaf Education teacher training program fills a critical need for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Maryland and around the country. Closing this program will result in irreparable harm to this vulnerable population.

Please support the continuation of this vital program. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Raimondo