

**Please Support Amendment 422 to S. 2564:
Trained and Qualified School Interpreters Workforce Development
Filed by Sen. Crighton**

**Address the Urgent Needs for Trained and Qualified School Interpreters and
Workforce Development Opportunities for Bilingual Residents
in Communities Most Impacted by the COVID-19 Emergency**

1. This amendment provides \$4M over 5 years to the department of elementary and secondary education to **create the statewide system necessary to build a critical mass of trained and qualified school interpreters** to meet the demand for qualified school interpreters.
2. Language access is essential to ensure meaningful family engagement and address the widening achievement and opportunity gaps resulting from the pandemic.
3. This proposal is consistent with the **unanimous** recommendations of the 2019 DESE-led Task Force formed pursuant to § 81, ch. 154 of the acts of 2018 regarding the training and credentialing of school interpreters. Task Force members included school district administrators, educators, parent advocates, and an interpreter training program director.
4. Main components of this initiative include:
 - A. Development of an effective, comprehensive school interpreter training curriculum
 - B. Establishment of a system for training, assessment, and determining the qualifications of school interpreters; and
 - C. Provision of statewide school interpreter training and assessment for 1100 bilingual individuals to become qualified school interpreters, including bilingual school staff and those seeking the school interpreter credential through a professional interpreter training program.
5. This initiative will ensure that qualified school interpreters are available statewide, focusing in the highest need districts. Communities to be priorities: those hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, as identified by the Governor and the Department of Public Health;ⁱ and other regional urban “Gateway” cities.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ [Baker-Polito Administration launches targeted outreach initiative in 20 hardest hit communities to increase equity in COVID-19 vaccine awareness and access; \\$1m to support vaccination in historically underserved communities | Mass.gov](#)

ⁱⁱ Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch.23A §3A (defining “Gateway municipalities”).

11/8/21