

2556

From: SueAnne McCreery [SMcCreery@cyracom.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2008 1:09 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Act 57-2004

RECEIVED

2008 SEP 18 PM 1:31

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Good morning Commissioners,

I am a nationally certified sign language interpreter residing and working in Arizona, with a license to practice in this state. I would like to share my concerns about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Act 57-2004 regarding registry of sign language interpreters.

The final regulation dated September 15, 2008 states that approximately 250 sign language interpreters will be affected by this act. I beg to differ: through the use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) technology, many more interpreters residing and working in states other than Pennsylvania increasingly provide interpreting services to Deaf/Hard of Hearing Pennsylvanians. As the regulations are currently written, out-of-state VRI interpreters like myself will be required to register to practice in Pennsylvania if they work more than 14 days per year in the Commonwealth.

While I agree wholeheartedly with the Act's intention to ensure that only qualified interpreters should practice in Pennsylvania, I believe an exemption should be added for out-of-state interpreters who work via VRI or teleconferencing technology. You may refer to laws pending in California and Nevada which include such exemptions.

As more and more states establish registry or licensing requirements for sign language interpreters, it is prudent to consider including reciprocity clauses or exemptions for those of us who increasingly work across state lines via video technology. If such exemptions are omitted, qualified interpreters who are unable to bear the cost of multiple state registration/license fees will be discouraged from practicing remotely. This, in turn, will actually decrease the availability of qualified interpreters for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

SueAnne McCreery, NIC, NAD IV

ASL Coordinator
Cyracom
(520) 745-9447 ext. 1826
(520) 745-9022 fax
www.cyracom.com