

#2556

**PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY -
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**

**777 East Park Drive • P.O. Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820**

August 21, 2006

Catherine Wojciechowski, Deputy Chief Counsel
Department of Labor and Industry
Labor and Industry Building
Seventh and Forster Streets
Harrisburg, PA. 17120

OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL

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DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

Dear Attorney Wojciechowski,

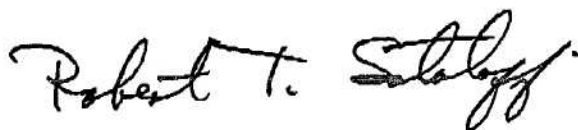
This letter is in response to the Department's proposed regulation of July 22, 2006, concerning the Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators Act. Specifically, my comments concern section 501.5 Exemptions (e)(1).

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 does not mandate the provision of sign language interpreters in every instance for deaf persons being seen by a physician. An interpreter may be necessary to ensure effective communication in some cases but that decision has been left to the physician's discretion. Your proposed regulation does not appear to allow that physician discretion.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology was involved, in great detail, with the drafting of this Act. We met with the staffs of Representative Nailor and Senator Lemmond on numerous occasions and felt that our views were contained in the final language of H.B. 445. We were disappointed upon seeing the large number of groups that were contacted by the Department for input in writing these regulations and that our Academy was not solicited for advice or input.

We request that you amend the final regulation to allow the physician to have the final authority on whether a registered transliterator is required on each patient visit.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Sataloff, MD, FACS
President