

Buckheit, James

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From: CinSigns@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2007 12:05 PM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Act 57, chapter 14 regulations comments

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit;

I am writing to you regarding the proposed chapter 14 regulations for Educational Interpreters under Act 57. While I agree educational interpreters should be skilled to work in education, raising the bar too high could have serious consequences for our jobs and our students. Since the EIPA (Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment) is a relatively new test, our profession is trying to play "catch up" to meet the needs of the deaf community. Students are suffering because the most extremely skilled interpreters do not want to work with low functioning deaf.

Currently with the 3.5 score requirement, districts are having problems filling positions and substitutes who meet the minimum requirement are rare to none! Interpreters who are "qualified" to work with the student they are matched with might lose their job if the minimum standard is raised to 4.0. I feel strongly that with the minimum skill proficiency at 3.5 on the EIPA and the requirement for professional development hours to improve skills needs to remain and if the bar is raised higher then it will cause a hardship to districts statewide, to the students, to the interpreters and to the interpreter profession. May I also suggest that the requirement for substitute interpreters be lowered to 3.0 with professional development requirements so that it will be easier to attract substitutes?

Please consider the negative consequences of the proposed chapter 14 regulations. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Cindy West

Educational Interpreter

7/25/2007