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Buckheit, James

From: Carol Ballance [ballance@nauticom.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2007 8:25 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Act 57, chapter 14 regulations comments

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing concerning the state's proposed regulations concerning educational interpreters for the deaf. I understand the state's desire to certify interpreters. The state needs assurance that qualified people are serving the deaf. I have passed the EIPA above the 3.5 level so what I have to say is not sour grapes.

I have worked with mainstreamed deaf students since 1976, sometimes as a teacher and more often as an interpreter. The majority of the mainstreamed students are not native signers of ASL. Most of the mainstreamed students have hearing parents and need to see a signed form of English. However the EIPA is testing for good models of ASL. I believe most of the students I have worked with would not be well served by the type of interpreting that they are testing. Most mainstreamed students want to see more English so they know exactly why the class is reacting the way they are. More ASL style interpreting has a longer delay in delivering the message which reduces class participation. The students also want to know how the teacher talks so they can do better on tests.

Unless a better tool is created for establishing the standard, or better and more programs are in place to train interpreters, increasing the standard will only decrease the number of interpreters. Deaf children will actually lose services.

Cordially,

Carol T. Ballance

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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