

VERA E. KUZYK

172 Church Road ♦ Mountain Top, PA 18707 ♦ vkuzyk79@hotmail.com ♦ (570) 574-0852

March 5, 2008

RE: House Bill 1596

Dear House Professional Licensure Committee,

As a student in the interpreter training program at Bloomsburg University I would like to encourage passage of HB 1596. I am a senior, non traditional student in this program. I am a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania. That means I have a vested interest in this bill. I want to be able to complete my practicum in the state in which I reside within a timely manner. Without HB 1596 I will not be able to do so.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) voted for the current Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) while I was in my freshman year at Bloomsburg. As students we have been schooled in all aspects of the new code, most especially with regards to professionalism. Knowing when we are not qualified, comfortable or fluent in any given situation has been an emphasis in our education.

CPC tenet two requires interpreters use “discretion with regard to skill, communication mode, setting, and consumer needs.” We have been taught the message is the most important component of a successful interpretation. Not being qualified to interpret in a given situation would skew the message. Therefore I would not accept an assignment for which I was not qualified.

Tenet three of the CPC stipulates (interpreters) “presenting themselves appropriately in demeanor and appearance.” The knowledge passed on to us in our program has allowed us to decipher the meaning of “demeanor and appearance.” Specifically, 3.2 of the CPC indicates if I am not able to perform my duties as an interpreter due to competency factors, either with my physical or mental health then I must decline that assignment.

The interpreter training program at Bloomsburg University is a four year Bachelor of Science degree program. In the four years at this university I have been waiting to see if the state would improve upon Act 57 to welcome the newly graduated interpreter. Without House Bill 1596 we are pushing new interpreters out of our state and preventing new out of state graduates from relocating to Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1596 will allow new graduates of interpreter training programs to work in varied environments here in Pennsylvania under the watchful eye of a mentor. Upon completion of their practicum it will offer them the opportunity to hone their skills excluding mental health and legal settings.

Currently Pennsylvania law limits how I can complete my practicum. Therefore, I am currently seeking a practicum outside the commonwealth in order to complete this phase of my education in the time allotted by my program.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of House Bill 1596. Your cooperation and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Vera Kuzyk