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From: Ms Marci S. [mailto:mms242@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 6:08 PM  
To: jamesmdawes@comcast.net  
Subject: HB1596

To House Professional Licensure Committee:

My name is Marci Stoner and I am an American Sign Language Interpreter that is currently working in Pennsylvania. I have a Bachelors Degree in American Sign Language/ English Interpreting from Bloomsburg University that I received in August of 2007. I also have a passing score for the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Written Test. Both documents prove how skilled I am as an interpreter. I do understand and respect the meaning behind Act 57, at the same time, with the skill that I have acquired I feel as though Act 57 is holding me back from reaching my fullest potential. Therefore, I am in support of House Bill 1596 so my skill will advance.

I have followed the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), Code of Professional Conduct (CPC), previously known as the Code of Ethics since I was taught about it in college. The second tenet of the CPC is about Professionalism. In my Interpreter Training Program (ITP) I have learn about professionalism at its best. I've learned which place is best for the interpreter to sit or stand, so that the consumer can see them clearly, I have also learned and understood when to decline the assignment because I may not have enough experience. Experience is something that takes time to acquire. Currently Pennsylvania has restrictions on what interpreting situations I may have access to, therefore my experience is limited. By passing HB 1596 I feel that by interpreting in a variety of situations (business, medical, etc.) my professionalism as well as the understanding this evolving language will only improve.

Under the Code of Professional Conduct where it lists Applicability, Section A it states that the CPC applies to both certified and associate members of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. An associate member is one who interprets but is not yet certified.

I, as well as other interpreters in this state have credentials for their skills, such as an Associates or Bachelors Degree and passing score on the NIC Written Test, and by being members of RID we are required to do our best to follow the Code of Professional Conduct. With these credentials we are qualified to work with different assignments than what Act 57 has limited us to. I as well as other interpreters will keep information confidential, make ethical decisions and continue to become more knowledgeable of the profession as time goes on.

By passing Pennsylvania House Bill 1596 to allow non-certified interpreters to register provisionally until certified, will open the doors to many adequate interpreters. If this mission is successful, instead of providing service to another state, I will plan to stay in my home state of Pennsylvania and give back to this commonwealth. Through the competence that I have with the interpreting profession, I will provide the best I can to the Deaf Community.

Thank You,  
Marci M. Stoner