

March 12, 2009

K. Lisa Venn
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Granby, CT 06035

Dear Senator Miller:

As a certified Sign Language Interpreter working for the State of Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI), I am strongly encouraging you to vote **NO** to the Governor's HB 6375 Section 2 (e) #6, where it states that the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) is to be terminated July 1, 2014. Listed below are quick bulleted reasons I believe the Commission on the Deaf should not be terminated. This list is a quick reference; it is by no means an exhaustive list:

- Closing CDHI will cause more undo financial burden for the State agencies (DCF, DDS, DMHAS, DOC, etc) to comply with federal mandated laws (stated below) than it would cost to keep the Commission a functioning entity within the Executive Branch. CDHI's competitors charge substantially more money than the current rates at CDHI.
- CDHI enables the State of CT to be in compliance with federal mandated laws such as; Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA), Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Closing CDHI will no longer provide the State of CT with a governing agency to oversee the statutory law (CGS Section 46a-33a) of all interpreters being registered in the State and working with proper certification.
- Closing CDHI will directly effect and negatively impact the quality of life for all persons who are Deaf and Hearing Impaired as well as the community at large due to the limited access to services such as interpreting, counseling and advocacy.
- Most referrals are done through CDHI such as; medical, legal, education, businesses and corporations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail during this busy time. If you feel that you need further information or specifics regarding this e-mail, please feel free to contact me at: Lvenn@hotmail.com or 860-653-7932.

If I cannot be at the LOB in person on March 16, 2009, it is solely because I am out interpreting for the State of CT, along with 20-30 of my colleagues providing interpreting services for Deaf AND Hearing persons all over the State.
Thank you for taking this matter seriously.

K. Lisa Venn
CDHI Interpreter