

Subject: NO to the Governor's HB 6375 Section 2 (e) #6

As a Sign Language interpreter working in Connecticut, I strongly encourage you to vote **NO** to the Governor's HB 6375 Section 2 (e) #6, which states that the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) is to be terminated July 1, 2014. Listed below are a few bulleted reasons why I believe CDHI should not be terminated:

- CDHI enables the State of Connecticut to be in compliance with federally mandated laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA), Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to name just a few.
- Closing CDHI will cause more of a financial burden for state agencies (DCF, DDS, DMHAS, DOC, etc.) to comply with federally mandated laws (ADA, PL 94-147, Section 504, etc.) as CDHI's competitors charge substantially more than the current rates at CDHI.
- Closing CDHI will no longer provide the State of Connecticut with a governing agency to oversee the statutory law (CGS Section 46a-33a) requiring all interpreters to be registered in the State and working with proper certification.
- Closing CDHI will directly affect 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email during this busy time. If you need further information or specifics regarding this e-mail, please feel free to contact me at (203) 933-5110.

Anna-Marie S. Cartagena CI and CT