

To: APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
From: Gloria White, Commission Member, Preston, CT
Date: Feb. 11 2010

I am writing to show my support for the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) as I cannot make it to testify in person at this public hearing.

I want to go on record as supporting CDHI as an INDEPENDENT AGENCY because of the unique people that we serve, meaning the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

This population that resides in the State of Connecticut has NEEDS that cannot be met by the other agencies that provide services.

The fact that CDHI is completely and fully accessible to all means of communications for deaf and hearing impaired people makes this the ideal agency to go to when in need of services..

The fact that the agency is also on a Bus Line and has convenient parking places is very important to the deaf that have need of CDHI's services, too.

The fact that CDHI saves the state money by fulfilling its mission as a state wide advocacy commission to the deaf and hearing impaired; there by helping deaf people to improve their lives and get jobs and services for Interpreting makes this very small agency very viable and does take care of a large group of deaf and hearing impaired living in the state of Connecticut.

This small agency has been in existence since 1974 and I was also one of the first members back then.

It has proven over the years that it was and still is a very, very valuable agency, INDEPENDENTLY KNOWN with a separate MISSION.

Since we identify with deaf and hearing impaired consumers, we need to be a separate agency and found quickly and not under a huge dept like DSS.

We definitely are not a social service agency and should not be identified with one as such!

Accessibility is the number one priority meaning getting into a building, finding where to go, and communicating in ASL.

In closing, again, please keep the COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY!

THANK YOU,

Sincerely yours,

Gloria White
54 Benjamin Rd
Preston, CT
gwhite3663@yahoo.com