

March 26, 2015

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Gelser,

This has brought to my attention that I feel that all of you must know this. I am shocked to learn the DHS' guidelines and after I questioned them with my political position under my name, suddenly they forwarded it to the head supervisor and now they are apologizing and says they do provide accommodations for the orientation. This makes me wonder, how can the DHS perform appropriate evaluation if they don't understand a person's need therefore it is highly possible for them to provide low quality of caregivers, especially for people with disabilities.

I am an enthusiastic, compassionate and engaged Oregonian with a strong desire to become trained as a Home Care Worker for members of my community. In order to do this, I need an accommodation, which is my right under the ADA. I require your assistance and guidance for the upcoming training in Multnomah County in order to remove barriers to training and employment ASAP. Please review the below:

- You must be at least 18 years of age.
- You must be a US citizen or legally authorized to work in the US.
- A criminal background check is required - *If you are unsure of criminal history it is advised that you get that information before attending orientation. Any undisclosed criminal history may disqualify you. You will fill out the criminal background check paperwork at the time of orientation.*
- You will need to complete a home care worker application at orientation - *You must complete a HCW application to receive a provider number. Until you have a provider number you cannot be paid by the state for performing*

*HCW duties.*

- *Ability to Perform HCW duties - There is a list of HCW duties that you must perform. You will be provided with this list after we have scheduled you for orientation. You will need to look over the information sent to you and ensure that you can meet all duty requirements. If you cannot, please contact us so we can remove you from orientation.*
- *Attend Orientation - You must attend orientation or you will not be issued a provider number.*
- *Interpreter - You will need to provide your own interpreter at orientation if you have need of one. We, unfortunately, are unable to provide this service.*
- *Bring ID and SS card to Orientation - Please bring a non expired ID AND Social Security Card to orientation.*
- *Bring CPR and First Aid Cards to the Orientation - You are not REQUIRED to be First Aid or CPR certified, but if you are please bring your certification cards to orientation.*
- *Unable to attend / No show - If you are unable to attend PLEASE contact me OR the Gresham office to reschedule. Again, you cannot be paid for working without a provider number and you will not be issued one until you fill out an application attend orientation and pass a criminal history background check.*

Evidently, there are too many issues that can be resolved if we had an office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing services which we lack in the state of Oregon, especially after the fact that we have 186,117 deaf residents living in Oregon. I strongly encourage the SB0449 bill to be passed.

Many thanks!

Philip J. Wolfe  
Portland Commission on Disability, Commissioner  
Public Safety Committee

Community Oversight Advisory Board, Alt

Cc: Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.