



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

485 St. John's Church Road, Shiremanstown, PA 17011

voice (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175

tty (888) 559-2658

fax (888) 524-9282

email racucpca@parac.org

www.parac.org

August 10, 2016

Representative Bryan Cutler
121 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202100
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2100

Representative Dan Miller
116A East Wing
PO Box 202042
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2042

Dear Representative Cutler and Representative Miller,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council, we would like to thank you for your interest in providing more opportunities for people with disabilities to work at competitive wages in private and public sectors across the Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council was established in the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, as amended by WIOA 2014. As the Federally mandated advisory council to the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, it is our mission to advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

For years, the Council has been in support of the Employment First concept and has worked diligently in pursuit of making this happen in Pennsylvania. We were honored to be present during the Governor's signing of the Executive Order.

We appreciate your efforts in drafting the Employment First Act. Upon reviewing HB2130, the Council has decided that supporting this legislation is contingent upon the following amendments.

First, it is the Council's recommendation to establish an Employment First Oversight Commission that consists of a majority or at least 51% of people with disabilities, not including family members. Consumer control is a key component to successfully implementing the Employment First Act. It is very important that people with disabilities are seen as their own experts.

Second, in reference to Section 4(h)(1) "State agencies shall make an effort to employ individuals with disabilities in no less than 7% of the overall State work force", it is the Council's recommendation to change the language so

that it establishes a goal of seven plus percent in terms of hiring people with disabilities within the State.

In addition, the Council would like to request the drafting of separate legislation to establish an Expedited Employment system in Pennsylvania. This may involve amending the Civil Service Act so that people with disabilities in both Civil Service and Non-Civil Service can have an alternative path to employment with the State similar to Schedule A on the Federal level.

Again, we greatly appreciate your efforts and commitment to assisting people with disabilities in achieving economic independence. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration to the above recommendations from the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

W.D. Chrisner, III M.Ed./M.P.A
Chair, Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

Robert F. Fox, III
Chair, Legislative Committee for the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council