

## PETITION

The Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the State Department of Labor and Industry is a critical resource to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of Pennsylvania. Since its inception in 1988, the ODHH has been instrumental in assisting thousands if not millions of consumers across the Commonwealth when it comes to obtaining information, referrals and service coordination. Its strongest asset is that of advocacy.

At this point in time the ODHH has been without a Regional Representative for more than two years. It recently has not had a Director for nine months.

It is imperative that the next Director and Regional Representative of ODHH have the following qualifications before being hired:

Be fully fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Advance Plus or 4+ on either the SLPI or ASLPI

Fully understand the needs of both Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind consumers.

Fully understand and advocate Federal and State laws/regulations pertaining to those with hearing loss.

Be able to efficiently manage an office that is vital to all consumers dealing with hearing loss and deaf blindness.

The ODHH needs to be transferred out of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and back to the Deputy Secretary of Administration under the Secretary of Labor and Industry.

I hereby request that the Department of Labor and Industry perform their due diligence in selecting the next Director of the Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard Hearing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Send this Petition to: W. Gerard Oleksiak, Secretary  
PA Department of Labor & Industry  
1700 Labor & Industry Building  
651 Boas Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17121