



STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Dr. Peter Seiler
Executive Director

Dave Heineman
Governor

Commission Members

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To: Senator Heidemann and Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Peter J. Seiler, Ed.D., Executive Director 
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Date: January 4, 2010

Re: Response as required by L.B. 1

In order to balance the Commission's budget with the reductions required of us in L.B. 1, we are taking the following actions:

In the FY 2009-2010, we will take the following steps

- 1) Do not fill the .5 FTE position (Interpreter Coordinator)
- 2) Fill temporarily the Public Information Officer/Sign Language Interpreter position until June 30, 2010.
- 3) Use carryover funds to cover the remaining deficit

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has four staff members that are either deaf or hard of hearing. All four require the services of a sign language interpreter. One person that had been on military leave (she served in Afghanistan) has returned to her job (Interpreter Program Assistant). For this person, time will be needed to retrain in order to obtain the interpreter certification required for the position. By temporarily filling the Public Information Officer/Sign Language Interpreter position, the agency can meet the needs of the four staff individuals.

In the FY 2010-2011, we will take the following steps

- 1) Eliminate permanently the .5 FTE position (Interpreter Coordinator)
- 2) Reduce one staff position to .5 FTE
- 3) Do not fill the Public Information Officer/Sign Language Interpreter position



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The staff position affected is an Administrative Assistant in the Omaha office. Her hours will be cut to 20 hours. The other staff in the Omaha and Lincoln offices will absorb the duties during those hours not covered.

By not filling the Public Information Officer/Sign Language Interpreter position, we will find that we cannot disseminate information about deafness and hearing loss to Nebraska citizens. We also will have to hire more private practice sign language interpreters to meet the needs of the four staff people with hearing impairment. That will impact our budget more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

CC: Liz Hruska, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Matthew Eash, DAS Budget Analyst

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