



"The world has watched the deaf community come of age. Together we've overcome our own reluctance to stand up for our own rights."

— Dr. I. King Jordan, President Emeritus, Gallaudet University

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Monday, July 25, 2016

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Office of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
Attn: John Miller and Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky
528 South Fifth Street, Suite 209
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Director Miller and Commissioners:

I write this public letter on behalf of the Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD), a member-driven organization established in 1877 that remains fully committed to promoting the advancement of the social, educational and economic well being of the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Illinois.

The IAD submitted several letters over the past six weeks to Director John Miller and the Commission expressing great concern about the operations and management of the IDHHC. Letters from organizations and individuals within the greater Deaf and Hard of Hearing community supplemented these letters from IAD. As a follow-up to address these concerns, I request the following:

- Pursuant to Article IV, Section X of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Bylaws, the opportunity to address the commission during the upcoming Commission Meeting on August 18, 2016;
- During the August 18, 2016 meeting, the commissioners add agenda item(s) to the August 18, 2016 meeting agenda to discuss and carry out action items identified to address the concerns of the IAD and other organizations and individuals that wrote the IDHHC; and
- The commissioners and director of IDHHC publicly issue a response(s) with listed action items addressing the concerns of community stakeholders that are supposed to be served by the IDHHC.

The IAD strongly posit the IDHHC put in motion these requests to demonstrate to the community at large that corrective action will be taken and the IDHHC will commit itself to make actual systematic changes and ensure that the state of Illinois, non-deaf individuals and service providers, not only hear, but also listen to the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The community at large looks forward to positive change.

Sincerely,

Corey Axelrod
President
Illinois Association of the Deaf

cc: Kevin Ryan, Vice President, Illinois Association of the Deaf
Shelley Williams, Secretary, Illinois Association of the Deaf
Lisa Roth, Treasurer, Illinois Association of the Deaf
Susan Dramin-Weiss, Membership Secretary, Illinois Association of the Deaf