

Legislative 2013 Report

by Cheryl Sloan, Chair

On February 1, 2013, TSID Board members received a copy of the Advisory Committee on Qualifications for Health Care Translators and Interpreters Report 2012. This Committee conducted research and presented their report to Representative Eddie Rodriguez in which spoken language interpreters and sign language interpreters should hold certification/training to work in health care settings. Rep. Rodriguez has not taken any action of this report during this legislative session.

On February 28, 2013, Representative Eddie Rodriguez, primary author, and John Davis, joint author, filed House Bill 2072 for the purpose of changing BEI certification to a license. The bill was read the first time on March 5, and referred to Human Services. On April 2, HB 2072 was scheduled for public hearing, considered in a public hearing in which testimony was taken and recorded. HB 2072 passed out of Committee by a narrow 5 to 4 margin. On May 7, 2012, HB 2072 was read by the Senate and referred to the Health & Human Service Committee.

To follow the progress of this bill, go to the Texas Legislature Online at: <http://tsid.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=63432952c729d468a920f4ef2&id=995d75ae03&e=118cd84318>. On the Home page in the center column, type in HB 2072 and click on the Bill NO button. Also you will find helpful information about How to.... Follow the Status of a bill, Contact Your Legislator, View the Text of the Bill, etc. In the section "My TLO" you can sign up to receive a "Bill Alert" that will notify you when action is being taken on this bill.

The members of the TSID Board would like to encourage all members and other certified interpreters to contact your local president or legislative representative should you have questions regarding this bill.

On March 3 -5, 2013, Patricia Rubio and Cheryl Sloan attended the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Austin. The purpose of this Conference was to help individuals raise awareness on how to advocate independence for those with physical handicaps and to support the benefits provided through Medicaid. On the final day, the opportunity was given to march to the capitol in support of Medicaid and to encourage legislators to support a stronger Medicaid bill. Patricia and Cheryl would like to express their appreciation to the Board for this opportunity and experience.

Official Notice: The Board of TSID wishes to notify the membership that the following two Bylaws amendments will be considered at this year's Annual Conference:

First: Move to amend the TSID Bylaws (Article VII Committees, Section A, last paragraph) by inserting "/ Susan S Tiller" after both instances of "Fran Herrington-Borre." (The sentences would then read: Fran Herrington-Borre/Susan S Tiller Mentorship Program.

Rationale: to reflect the will of the membership as indicated by vote on a motion (since ruled out of order) at the 2012 Annual Conference. At last year's conference, the membership approved this name change, but we did not follow the appropriate procedure for an amendment to the TSID Bylaws.

Second: Move to amend Article III, E. 2. of the TSID Bylaws by inserting:

(Currently reads: 2. Items of business requiring action by the TSID Board may be conducted by mail or electronic mail at the discretion of the President. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the TSID

Board shall be required for passage; fourteen (14) from postmark date or date of electronic mail shall be allowed for receipt of replies from members of the Board.)

The amended version to read: 2. Items of business requiring action by the TSID Board may be conducted by mail or electronic mail at the discretion of the President. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the TSID Board shall be required for passage; fourteen (14) days from the postmark date for mail, or 24 hours from the time/date of electronic mail, shall be allowed for receipt of replies from members of the Board.

Rationale: Email votes may require a quick response. There is no need for a 14-day waiting period. (Still leaves the requirement that 2/3 of the Board membership must vote in favor for passage.)

Respectfully submitted.