



Easter Seals

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August 28, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the entire Easter Seals affiliate network and the individuals with disabilities and veterans we serve nationwide, I would like to thank you for the significant actions your Administration recently took to help increase hiring of individuals with disabilities and veterans by federal contractors and subcontractors. The release of final rules to the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 (Section 503) and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRAA) represent game-changing accomplishments in our country's effort to improve the employment picture for people with disabilities, who regularly face double digit unemployment, and for veterans who continue to struggle to return to the workforce.

Easter Seals specializes in the employment of people with disabilities and veterans. Last year, we helped nearly 80,000 individuals with disabilities, veterans and others develop new skills and find jobs. Easter Seals applauds the new rules that, for the first time ever, set meaningful hiring goals, add practical recruitment and hiring procedures and strengthen accountability measures to help ensure our country lives up to the bipartisan intent of these historic pieces of legislation. Easter Seals proudly supported the proposed draft regulations and we are pleased that the final rules reflect many of the changes Easter Seals and other organizations proposed to improve the regulations.

Easter Seals and our community-based network of affiliates stand ready to help connect contractors with job openings with qualified individuals with disabilities and veterans seeking employment. We also look forward to working with you and your Administration on the implementation of these rules and on other initiatives to help improve the employment picture for individuals with disabilities and veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Beh Neas".

Katy Beh Neas
Senior Vice President, Government Relations