

Hello,

I am Passle Helminski and I am speaking for myself and not as the Legislative Chair of the PA Rehabilitation Council (PaRC). I have had two very bad experiences trying to take the Civil Service Tests. I have an acquired disability. I completed all of the required forms and requested a person to help me fill in the answer sheet before arriving to take my test. I had an approved person to help me fill in my answer sheet. When I arrived to take the test the person who administered the test saw I had a service dog and said that no dogs were permitted in the testing room. I was told I had to leave the dog at home and reschedule the test. One of the persons with me, Judy Jobes was on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Board. She and I spoke up explaining to them that they cannot do that but they would not let me take the test with my service dog in the room. Judy Jobes brought up what happened to me at the next OVR Board meeting. I went back again without my service dog. The person that had been approved to help me fill in the forms previously could not help me this time because the Civil Service test administrator said the person assisting me had to be approved for before each test administration. I was not informed of this policy at my previous attempt to take the exam.

Please do not let this happen again. Please include in your Bill language a way to reasonably accommodate for the testing of qualified people with disabilities in a timely fashion and a reasonable hiring path for qualified people with disabilities.

Thank you,

Passle Helminski and service dog