

**Testimony**  
**House Bill 1406 - Department of Human Services**  
**House Finance and Taxation Committee**  
**Representative Craig Headland, Chairman**

January 22, 2019

Chairman Headland, and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, I am Robyn Throlson, the Interim Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with Department of Human Services (Department). I appear before you to support House Bill 1406, with amendments to clarify and simplify the intent of this Bill.

**Section 1:**

The Department proposes an amendment to page 1, lines 3, 8, 11, 15, 17, and 18 as a housekeeping matter, to update the language using “people first language.”

The Department proposes an amendment to page 1, lines 19 and 20 to replace the responsibility of the division to “certify an employee does not have reasonable prospects for competitive employment” with the process that is currently in place in which the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation “determines that the individual has a most significant disability, is eligible for services, and requires customized employment in order to obtain competitive integrated employment.”

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has a process which we are required to follow as required by 29 U.S.C. 720. Utilizing that process will not require additional funds to determine eligibility for this tax credit. In addition, customized employment is a highly individualized service which is intended for those with the most significant disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally been an option or has not been successful. It takes into consideration their interests and abilities and creates a job that benefits both the business and the employee. It is also important to add the word “integrated” to competitive employment as without it, there is a

possibility of segregated employment rather than employment that is typically found in the community.

It is the Department's position that this proposed amendment would be consistent with the intent of this bill.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.