

Colleen Molko
1258 Carriage Lane
Corona, CA 92880

March 29, 2012

Peter Lee
Executive Director
California Health Benefit Exchange
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Essential Health Benefits for Americans with Disabilities

Dear Mr. Lee:

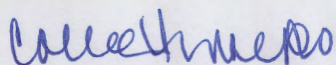
In March, you should have received correspondence from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) concerning health care reform and Essential Health Benefits. I am writing to you as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) residing in the state of California.

I have a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a current Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Credential issued by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. My employment experience includes more than nineteen years with the State of California Department of Rehabilitation, eight of those years as a Rehabilitation Counselor. In this capacity, I provided counseling and vocational rehabilitation services to clients to facilitate their return to independent living and gainful employment. I witnessed firsthand the outcomes achieved and the difference made in the lives of those I worked with, as a result of their receiving this critical assistance.

As CRCC mentioned in its correspondence, rehabilitation counselors are uniquely trained to assist individuals with physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, sensorineuro, and emotional disabilities to achieve their personal, social, psychological and vocational goals. They counsel people with disabilities resulting from birth defects, illness or disease, accidents, or other causes. Graduate programs in rehabilitation counselor education provide training on the medical, psychosocial, and cultural aspects of disability; assistive technologies; assessment; and disability legislation. No other graduate programs require such specific disability training, all of which is focused on achieving employment and independent living for Americans with disabilities.

I am writing to support CRCC's request that you consider the role of rehabilitation counseling as you review federal guidance on Essential Health benefits to determine how your health plans will best cover the unique needs of Americans with disabilities. Rehabilitation counseling is an essential part of both rehabilitation and habilitation services – I urge you to give it due consideration.

Sincerely,



Colleen Molko
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)