

Dear Interpreters,

I am writing to you now about a new volunteer opportunity to assist Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA) with informational phone calls about re-enrollment in Washington's Basic Health Plan. As you may have heard, a recent court order requires the Health Care Authority to re-enroll persons terminated from the Basic Health program in March 2011, due to a change in the requirements regarding immigrant status.

Background info from NoHLA:

Judge James Robart of the Federal District Court in Seattle recently ordered the Washington State Health Care Authority to re-enroll individuals terminated from Basic Health in March. Robart had earlier issued a preliminary injunction, ruling that the disenrollments based on the immigration statuses of people lawfully present in the United States likely violated their constitutional Equal Protection rights. He also held that the state notices of disenrollment were inadequate and likely violated the recipients' Due Process rights. About 11,000 former Basic Health enrollees are affected by Judge Robart's rulings. Northwest Health Law Advocates and Riddell Williams PS represented the plaintiffs in this case.

Here is a link to a news story on the topic:

11,000 may rejoin state's Basic Health plan

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016617500_basicealth27m.html

How you can help: Interpreters are needed for scheduled phone calls between NoHLA and people seeking information about re-enrolling in Basic Health. The Health Care Authority (HCA) itself is offering translations of the re-enrollment materials in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian. Those who need information in other languages, or needing help in understanding the materials written in any language, are entitled to an interpreter-assisted reading of the notice from BH. Due to the complexities of the situation, and very short deadlines, NoHLA is offering over-the-phone information for all those potentially eligible to re-enroll. This service is completely separate from the language assistance being offered by the HCA. Volunteer interpreters are currently needed for all languages except Spanish.

NoHLA has created an information & resource page specifically for community advocates and those interested in providing language assistance to callers. In order to prepare for interpreting these calls, volunteers need to listen to the recording of a conference call on the topic and to read all of the training materials posted on a dedicated webpage :

<http://nohla.org/linkPages/convRe-enroll11/re-enrollBH11.php>

If you have questions, or want to sign up as a volunteer interpreter, please call 1-888-989-1665, or send an email to : basicehealthcase@nohla.org

NoHLA contact information:

Janet Varon
Executive Director
Northwest Health Law Advocates
4759 15th Ave. NE, Suite 305
Seattle, WA 98105
[206-325-6464](tel:206-325-6464)

Joana Ramos, MSW
Independent Health Policy Consultant
Portuguese Medical Interpreter
Seattle WA
tel. 206-229-2420
<http://bmtbasics.org/>
<http://healthwatched.org>