

Dear Law Amendments Committee,

My name is Melissa Myers and it is an honour to write to you today. As a person with a physical disability I face barriers in obtaining employment. I am a well educated individual with a masters degree.

I have been out of school for years and I have applied for an estimate of 80 jobs without even an interview.

Please let me take a moment to outline the barriers I face. The average, able bodied, person can begin their career in an entry-level position. Although am well educated, due to my disability I am unable to physically meet the obligations required of these entry-level positions. As I am not able to gain employment in an entry-level position, I face the barrier of systemic discrimination imposed by unionized and seniority hiring systems. As each year passes that I am out of school I am unable to practice my Masters Degree. This is especially damaging in light of the fact that I will have less experience in comparison to my fellow candidates that will not only have the advantage of years of experience in the entry level position and, more frequently than not, be a member of a bargaining unit.

My recommendation to the law amendments committee is to further outline the standards proposed in Bill 59.

To construct and implement the best practices of affirmative action and combined with standards of equivalencies for qualified applicants.

I am not alone in this fight for inclusion, however due to the nature of these barrier outlined above, I feel honoured at the opportunity to make Bill 59 a historic moment for the progress towards a completely accessible Nova Scotia.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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