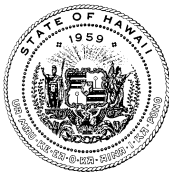


GM675

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, VALENTINA YAROVAYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Language Access Advisory Council

Current Referral: CPH



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 2, 2019

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **GM 675** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, VALENTINA YAROVAYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Hearing: Friday, April 5, 2019, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Agency's Position: The Office of Language Access (OLA) strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Valentina Yarovaya to the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to fill the seat of "one member-at-large," pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 321C-7(a) (14) for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Purpose and Justification: The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of the LAAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Valentina Yarovaya.

The mission of OLA is to address the language access needs of Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons and ensure their meaningful access to services, programs, and activities offered by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, including departments, offices, commissions, boards, and other state-funded agencies. OLA provides oversight, central coordination, and technical assistance to state agencies in their implementation of language access obligations – a civil right under both state and federal law.

The LAAC assists the Executive Director of OLA by providing input on implementation and compliance with Hawaii's language access laws and on the quality of oral and written language services provided under the law. The LAAC also offers feedback on a state agency's or covered entity's training of its employees who are likely to have contact with LEP persons; its policies and procedures for language services; its competency in working effectively with

interpreters and translators; and its understanding of the dynamics of language services between clients, providers, and interpreters.

Ms. Yarovaya hold a Master of Science degrees in Special Education and in Bilingual Education as well as years of experience teaching children and adults with disability and promoting accessibility guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act. She also assisted access to programs and services for student's parents with limited English proficiency. Ms. Yarovaya retired from being a Special Education Teacher at Stevenson Middle School, Honolulu, Hawaii, where she taught total communication class for deaf and hard of hearing students as well as special education students.

Ms. Yarovaya's desire to serve on the LAAC, as well as her employment background and bilingual skill make her a suitable candidate for the council. Therefore, OLA respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Ms. Valentina Yarovaya to the LAAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Galina Avakiants
11, chemin de Pont-Céard
1290 Versoix

Geneva, April, 3rd, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this letter to recommend Mrs.Valentina Yarovaya for Language Assess Advisory Council.

I have known Mrs Yarovaya as a friend for several years.

She has a most likable personality, inexhaustible energy, a great ability to work as a member of a team and a delicious sense of humour.

I also had an opportunity to observe her in communication with a limited adolescent and his parents.

Her professionalism, tact and highly efficient recommendations have impressed me very much.

She is a passionate and devoted specialist in her domain.

There is no doubt Mrs. Yarovaya will be an excellent addition to Language Assess Advisory Council Helping English limited people too get information, resources and services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Galina Avakiants, MA , MBA, social anthropologist

Cell ph: +41793631297

e-mail: gavakiants@bluewin.ch

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to tell you of the warm professionalism and deep intelligence of Valentina Yarovaya. She would make an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council!

I first met Mrs. Yarovaya in 2012 when we both worked as Special Education teachers at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in Honolulu. As Special Education educators, it was our job to address the learning needs of the children with disabilities at our school. This is no easy task as the range of disabilities, emotional and behavioral conditions vary from child to child. As a sign-language professional, Mrs. Yarovaya also had the additional responsibility of tending to the educational needs of the students with hearing impairment.

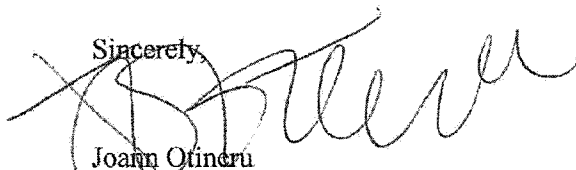
Let me tell you that from the very outset, Mrs. Yarovaya stood out as a gem! Mrs. Yarovaya was especially noteworthy because she always displayed a very helpful, professional knowledge. This made her wonderful to collaborate and problem-solve with because she had many ideas and suggestions. I always enjoyed conversations with Mrs. Yarovaya because she understood and had practical experience with the many different interventions and strategies used to help students learn. Mrs. Yarovaya created learning environments for her students that were organized, stimulating and engaging, and I often gained ideas from visiting her classroom.

In addition to her professional qualities, Mrs. Yarovaya is a genuinely good person. She is kind and thoughtful, and I can honestly say that in all the years I have known her, I have never heard her make a single negative comment about anyone. She has an exceptional ability to connect with even the most challenging and difficult people. She is especially perceptive, so if difficulties arise, Mrs. Yarovaya handles them in a respectful, insightful, and courteous manner.

I highly recommend Valentina to the Language Access Advisory Council. Valentina Yarovaya has the qualities of an excellent communicator. She is able to connect with people and tap into their needs. She has the skills needed to help people get the information, resources, and services needed to move forward in their plans. She would make an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council!

Please do not hesitate to call me at 808-391-8834 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joann Otineru

Educational Specialist

Kamaile Academy Hawaiian Charter School

85-180 Ala Akau St. Waianae, HI 96792