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From: Patrick <detroit_ap_group@ameritech.net>
To: <wvogl@samhsa.gov>
Date: 7/7/04 7:53PM
Subject: Public Comment on FR DOCKET NUMBER 04-7984, Mandatory Guidelines

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the SAMSHA drug testing guidelines.

For individuals like myself, that suffer from paruresis (Shy Bladder Syndrome,) changes to these guidelines would be a welcome relief to the current inflexible rules.

I have personally suffered economic loss as a result of avoiding employment with companies that institute rigid urine testing procedures of new employees. Like most paruresis sufferers, I remained silent about my condition for 30+ years until recently, when I sought out professional help in trying to overcome this phobia.

At a time when the USA is trying to be competitive in the world economy, it's a shame that thousands of US companies are missing out on highly qualified job candidates because of this absurd policy that has many alternative options (hair, blood, etc.) As a highly qualified individual with an extensive post-graduate education, I am just one of thousands of individuals that have either been unemployed or severely under-employed due to an inability to produce a urine specimen under observation.

This is especially true in my industry (high tech) where I have seen hundreds of foreigners issued HB-1 visas to take jobs that are supposedly impossible to fill with Americans. I would ask you how many of those jobs could have been filled by people like me that were forced to avoid applying because of this insidious testing standard?

At a time in medical history where we are able to conduct intricate stomach surgery without an incision through the mouth via the digestive tract, you would think that accepting alternative forms of drug testing such as hair or saliva would be a non-issue.

I would strongly urge SAMHSA to issue new standards that allow for alternative drug testing methods so that no American has to be denied the chance to earn a decent living simply because they suffer from a social phobia disability. Doing so, would be a win-win situation for both the individual and US businesses.

Regards,

Patrick Weiss