



USBLN[®] Response to Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding the 503 Regulation

For Immediate Release
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WASHINGTON, DC (February 6, 2012) - On December 9, 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to strengthen the current affirmative action employment requirements for people with disabilities. The USBLN[®] supports the U.S. Department of Labor's intent to improve the utilization of people with disabilities in the workforce, and recognizes that the current Section 503 affirmative action regulatory framework needs to be modernized, strengthened, and clarified.

In response to the NPRM, the US Business Leadership Network[®] (USBLN[®]) convened a committee comprised of Board and Corporate Advisory Board member companies to collectively develop comments inclusive of the strong expertise, experience and ideas of their stakeholders. The USBLN[®] member companies are committed to including disability in all their diversity efforts and each one has developed successful employment policies and practices. It is critical to the USBLN[®] members' continued success that the final regulations advance recruitment, hiring, retention and advancement efforts.

Additionally, the USBLN[®] hosted an in-depth webinar entitled, "What Federal Contractors Need to Know about OFCCP's Proposed Section 503 Regulation" in partnership with SSB BART Group and the ADA National Network on January 24, 2012. Participants had the exclusive opportunity to learn how to prepare and ask questions of the nation's leading disability law expert, Bobby Silverstein, Principal in the law firm of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, PC.

Webinar participants were also provided with important information about how to partner with the National Employment Team (NET), Sponsored by VR leadership: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and EARN to recruit, hire, retain and advance qualified individuals with disabilities. EARN is part of the National Employer Technical Assistance, Policy, and Research Center at Cornell University funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor. For more information on the NET contact, the Director of Business Relations: Kathy West-Evans, (206) 999-9455, kwest-evans@rehabnetwork.org. For more information on EARN contact EARN@AskEARN.org or 855-Ask-EARN (275-3276).

The USBLN[®] has submitted their response to the OFCCP with comments now available below, on their website and social media networks.

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DOC: http://www.usbln.org/urls/2012_USBLN_503_Comments_2-6-12.doc

PDF: http://www.usbln.org/urls/2012_USBLN_503_Comments_2-6-12.pdf

About the US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is a national non-profit, non-partisan business to business network promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN® Disability Supplier Diversity Program® (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

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