Good day, Chairperson Egan and members of the Assembly Labor Committee. On behalf of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities, I would like to express both our appreciation to the bills’ sponsor, Assemblywoman Speight, and support of the following legislation under consideration:

- A5294 which provides fast track hiring and advancement employments opportunities by State for persons with significant disabilities;
- A5296 which provides for employment by State of certain persons with disabilities; and
- A5298 which establishes recruitment and referral program for certain individuals.

Though statistics show that almost 50% of individuals with disabilities face at least one employment barrier:

- Hiring individuals with disabilities allows businesses to tap into an overlooked talent pool.
- Studies show that the retention rate of employees with disabilities was 85% after one year.
- Employees with disabilities increase workplace and customer diversity making the workplace more inclusive and accessible.
- Employees with disabilities are less likely to have workers comp claims.

Thank you for your leadership to drive change in the hiring practices of not only state government but, by virtue of example, in the business community as well. Thank you for being part of the solution.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Chin
Executive Director