

Help Shy Bladder Folks with Drug Tests

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3 **WHEREAS** 60% of the government and civilian jobs in this country require pre-
4 employment or Random Drug Tests based on a urine specimen;

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6 **WHEREAS** Shy Bladder Syndrome is a psychological/medical problem that affects up
7 to 7% of men and women in America and is recognized by the American Urological
8 Association (<http://www.urologyhealth.org> (paruresis)) and the American Psychiatric
9 Association (Social Anxiety Disorder);

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11 **WHEREAS** most shy bladder people are unable to provide urine specimens for drug
12 testing;

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14 **WHEREAS** typical drug testing guidelines equate the "inability to provide a urine
15 specimen" as a willful "refusal to test". Job applicants who cannot provide urine
16 specimens on demand are not hired, and those that have career jobs are often fired;

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18 **WHEREAS** the International Paruresis (pronounced par-your-e-sis) Association (IPA)
19 was founded in Maryland and is dedicated to helping Shy Bladder folks;

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21 **WHEREAS** the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Support Services Administration
22 (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health & Human Services was notified in June 2004 by
23 approximately 135 letters from the International Paruresis Association and its members
24 that SAMHSA urine drug testing regulations were discriminating against the
25 employment of shy bladder folks;

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27 **WHEREAS** the Drug Testing Advisory Board for SAMHSA received testimony from
28 the IPA Executive Director (Dr. Steven Soifer) regarding the discriminatory effect of
29 SAMHSA urine-based drug tests on several occasions in 2005 and 2006;

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31 **WHEREAS** SAMHSA has never responded in any way to the discrimination
32 complaints;

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34 **WHEREAS** alternative drug testing procedures (e.g. saliva testing) are available which
35 do not discriminate against shy bladder folks;

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37 **WHEREAS** the Constitution 14th Amendment guarantees that Citizen Rights cannot be
38 abridged without due process. SAMHSA has violated this amendment by knowingly
39 depriving shy bladder patients of employment without due process; and

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41 **WHEREAS** Governor Sonny Perdue of GEORGIA STATE in June 2007 signed into law
42 Senate Bill 96, which allowed shy bladder folks to take a saliva drug test if they were

43 unable to take a urine drug test (this bill passed with the overwhelming support of the
44 Georgia Chamber of Commerce);

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46 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic party will
47 work with IPA representatives to become the second state in the nation to end
48 employment discrimination against shy bladder folks. This will be accomplished by
49 enacting a bill similar to Georgia Senate Bill 96 but with the addition of saliva testing as
50 a drug testing option; and

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52 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be sent to our
53 Congressional Delegation to begin hearings as to why Americans with shy bladder are
54 being denied jobs without due process. No permanent Head of the SAMHSA
55 organization should be confirmed until emergency regulations are issued to allow
56 anyone having difficulty providing a urine specimen to take alternative drug tests (e.g.
57 saliva). SAMHSA, considering their past record of indifference, should be tasked with
58 obtaining the written approval of the IPA prior to issuing any permanent or emergency
59 regulations on urine testing.

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62 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
63 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

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65 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
66 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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68 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
69 2008 meeting in Spokane.