

From: riley mullins
Sent: 9/29/2023, 5:51 PM
To: admin@illinoisshines.com
Subject: Re: Illinois Shines Stakeholder Feedback

I spoke with Olivia this morning and this afternoon, who was very helpful, and I brought to her attention that the minimum equity standards that are meant to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, is in fact NOT diverse, equitable, or inclusive. More specifically, when it comes to disabled veterans and people with disabilities.

Disabled veterans and people with disabilities are a protected class of people in all facets government. On Governor Pritzker's own website, under his plan for veterans, the first bullet point is, and I quote, "increase opportunities for education AND EMPLOYMENT for veterans and their families." How is excluding veterans from the Minimum Equity Standard "increasing opportunities for employment for veterans"? The answer is it doesn't.

In its current state, a person with a physical disability who has to live at home with their parents, never been incarcerated, and is overlooked by employers does not meet your Minimum equity standard.

In its current state, a person can come back from war, lose a leg, get diagnosed with PTSD, also overlooked by employers, and STILL wouldn't meet the minimum equity standard. But, if that same veteran gets a DUI, commits an assault, or robs a convenience store, then that veteran becomes a "protected class".

There are thousands of disabled veterans and people with disabilities that are overlooked by employers because of that. If the Minimum Equity Standard is truly about encouraging a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive solar industry in Illinois, then the Minimum equity standard should promote a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive solar industry. That is not possible if minimum equity standard excludes protected classes of people.

I encourage you to add not just disabled vets and people with disabilities to the minimum equity standard, but, ALL protected classes of people, given that is why the minimum equity standard was created in the first place. I thank you for your time and consideration.