



# Letters Received Laundry Services

For NYS Procurement Council consideration at the July 14, 2016 meeting:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Assemblywoman Jaffee Letter	June 29, 2016	2-3
Jill Warner, Jawonio Email	July 12, 2016	4



ELLEN C. JAFFEE  
Assemblywoman 97<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RECEIVED  
JUL 1 1 2016

CHAIR  
Committee on Oversight, Analysis  
and Investigation  
COMMITTEES  
Environmental Conservation  
Children and Families  
Health  
Higher Education  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Mental Health  
Steering Committee

BY: .....

June 29, 2016

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services  
Corning Tower - 41<sup>st</sup> Floor Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito:

I am writing to the Procurement Council regarding the changes to the Preferred Source definitions that will be on the Agenda for the Council's next meeting. I applaud the proactive nature of the Council and agree that the List and the definitions should keep step with the times.

**As the Council knows, the Preferred Source Program is a social program, legislatively enacted to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to secure and flourish in service and commodity-producing jobs.** Naturally those jobs are limited, however, to what is approved for the Preferred Source List. Recognizing this limitation, OGS has, per its own Guidelines, stated that the List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to *maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%.*

**Regrettably, the suggested revisions to the industrial laundry service definitions, if left unchanged from the May 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 distribution, not only fail to meet either of the above stated directives, but also will operate to reduce the list of offerings that individuals with significant disabilities can perform because of the narrow scope of the definitions and thus create job loss.**

To specifically address the Industrial Laundry Services definitions, this service employs individuals with significant disabilities through a not-for-profit agency in my district providing gainful employment. While there are many functions that go into meeting industry standards for industrial laundry services and the supporting tasks to meet those standards, OGS ignores these other tasks and relegates them non-essential by not allowing these tasks to be **included in the definition of Laundry Service (Industrial).**

The May 25<sup>th</sup> revised OGS definition for industrial laundry services reflected the importance of the job tasks that included *"disinfecting of linen transport carts and decontaminating any surfaces or equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials and fluids to be in compliance with HLAC standards."* **However the procurement Council staff response looks to include these important tasks as "indirect labor."** It is very important that these job tasks are part of the **direct labor** components for the OGS definition of Industrial Laundry Services. The tasks of **cleaning and**

**sanitizing the surfaces and equipment are absolutely vital** to the production operation and the ability to meet the customer specifications. **If these tasks are not completed on a continual and regular basis, entire production lines would be shut down and hygienically clean linen could not be delivered to customers.**

Individuals with differing disabilities may excel more in one area than in another. To limit the definition of these tasks to indirect labor (which will not count as direct labor hours for the preferred source requirements) will create job loss for up to 20 people with significant disabilities. Most of the employees with disabilities competently work as production floor attendants, but do not have the skill set for production line work. Limiting the tasks will limit these individuals' employment options, which is not the intent of OGS or NYS Finance law. These most vulnerable citizens and employees must be given the fullest opportunity to sustain on-going employment throughout New York State.

Sincerely,



Ellen C. Jaffee

Member of Assembly, 97<sup>th</sup> AD

**From:** Zangrilli, Jomarie [mailto:Jomarie.Zangrilli@jawonio.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 1:02 PM  
**To:** Schultz, Kenneth (OGS) <Kenneth.Schultz@ogs.ny.gov>  
**Subject:** On behalf of Jill Warner: NYSID Laundry email for the Procurement Council - video link

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*

Dear Mr. Schultz,

Please watch this five-minute video about NYSID laundry services at Unitex in Mount Vernon:  
[https://youtu.be/pMj\\_RaOQR0w](https://youtu.be/pMj_RaOQR0w).

The video is representative of the direct labor and hard work performed by production floor attendants in the laundry facility, essential to the processing of clean linen and critical to achieving accreditation levels in the industry. The definition proposed by OGS falls short in acknowledging the vital contributions of production floor attendants who avoid cross contamination issues and ensure the process of clean linen through the work they perform in cleaning and sanitizing equipment, floors, counters, carts, etc. NYSID's proposed definition, which we encourage the Procurement Council to adopt, is below:

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry and may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles in order to comply with Healthcare Laundry Accreditation (HLAC) requirements, such as minimizing potential environmental contamination: i.e. vermin, lint, moisture, disinfecting of linen transport carts, maintaining functional separation of soiled and clean room areas and the decontaminating of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials and fluids. Supporting tasks include as well as pickup of soiled laundry and the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer-owned or on a rental basis.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Jill A. Warner, LCSW  
Executive Director, CEO  
Jawonio Inc.  
260 North Little Tor Road New City NY 10956  
845-708-2000 x1304

[Jill.Warner@Jawonio.org](mailto:Jill.Warner@Jawonio.org)

DONATE NOW help support our children and families click HERE [www.jawonio.org](http://www.jawonio.org) Jawonio is SOCIAL: Find us in these "neighborhoods"

[www.facebook.com/jawonio1947](http://www.facebook.com/jawonio1947)

[www.twitter.com/jawonio](http://www.twitter.com/jawonio)