

Chairman Kinzer
Judiciary Committee
Kansas House of Representative

Re: House Bill 2484, reinstatement of certification
for freelance (deposition) court reporters

Representative Kinzer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of licensed Kansas freelance court reporters, I appreciate this opportunity to address you and the committee regarding the reinstatement of the certification requirement for freelance court reporters in our state. The removal of this requirement occurred after the legislature modified the Kansas Civil Code to conform with the Federal Civil Code last June.

As the KCRA President Coleen Boxberger has shared with you, approximately ten years ago KCRA was successful in bringing this to the legislature's attention, and, ultimately, it was passed requiring a certified freelance reporter to take depositions in the State of Kansas. A large percentage of legislation is enacted to afford the public a certain amount of protection. Having a certified reporter means you will be hiring an individual who has attained a skill level acceptable for employment. Without this protection, it becomes "buyer beware".

Court reporters are entrusted with corporate secrets, medical records, tax returns, company patents, and documents not intended for release to the general public. Schooling, interning, and training prepare the reporter to appreciate the importance of this trust and confidentiality as well as how critical each spoken word is in a deposition and how it can impact the outcome of a case. Licensing ensures and requires that professional responsibilities and requirements are adhered to throughout a reporter's career.

As written, other than not being an employee, relative, or having a potential financial gain, there are currently no other requirements to fulfill this obligation written in the statute. Our national organization offers further skill testing because they understand the importance of having equally highly skilled reporters in every facet of reporting throughout the country. Kansas already has a CCR board in place that monitors testing and compliance with licensing for the official reporters. Licensing in Kansas requires an annual monetary fee of \$50 which funds the testing and continuing education.

A notary public for the State of Kansas requires an examination and even a bond. There are licensure requirements for beauticians, nail techs, and those that board small animals or have an animal rescue shelter in their home. Certifications are required to be a nurse's aide or medication aide. This is all to protect the public.

On behalf of the certified freelance reporters in the State of Kansas, we would ask for your support of House Bill 2484 for reinstatement of certification.

Sincerely,

Kristin M. Anderson, CSR, CCR, RPR
Kansas Court Reporters Association,
National Court Reporters Association
National Committee of State Associations, Vice Chair
Metropolitan Court Reporters | 9200 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 205
Overland Park, Kansas 66210 | 913-4249721 | kristinrnr@yahoo.com