



National Court Reporters Association
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Chairman Robert Lynn
State House-House Member Mail
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Opposition of House Bill 1412-FN and the Termination of Licensure for Court Reporters in New Hampshire

Dear Chairman Lynn and Distinguished Members of the New Hampshire House Judiciary Committee:

As President of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), which represents more than 12,000 members, including those in the state of New Hampshire, we are writing to oppose House Bill 1412-FN, which seeks to repeal the licensure and regulation of court reporters in New Hampshire.

While NCRA is the national association for stenographic court reporters for over 125 years, it must be noted that it is a volunteer organization that does not have regulatory authority over court reporters in the state of New Hampshire, nor does it have the authority to issue licenses for the profession of court reporting. NCRA is a specialized organization that provides professional and ethical guidelines for individuals engaged in the profession of court reporting and relies on states to legally govern the practice of court reporting.

We respectfully disagree with the termination of the licensing authority for stenography in New Hampshire and emphasize that such a dissolution will damage the accuracy and security of the record. Moreover, citizens of New Hampshire will be denied access to the most accurate record. Furthermore, not only will it have disastrous implications for the hardworking and highly skilled stenographic reporters of New Hampshire, their families, and their livelihood, but it will negatively impact the abilities of participants in the court to enjoy the highest level of record-making available.

The New Hampshire Advisory Board of Court Reporting serves as the licensing body for stenographic court reporters in New Hampshire. It develops and maintains appropriate standards for the licensure of court reporters, establishes and maintains a standard of competency for individuals engaged in the practice of court reporting, and maintains the integrity of the transcription of the spoken word to protect the public. The Board is also responsible for disciplinary actions for violations of these standards. When a stenographic court reporter becomes licensed by the Board, the stenographer, the employer, and the public benefit and are protected. The existence of the Board ensures that stenographic court reporters, who have a high degree of training, accuracy, and skill – writing at up to 260 wpm – are taking the record. Whereas absent a licensure requirement, any individual, including those persons from other states, can hold themselves out to be stenographic court reporters. This would detrimentally jeopardize the official court record at the expense of litigants and the New Hampshire Judicial System.

Court reporters in New Hampshire have operated effectively for years as licensed stenographic reporters. Their licensure provides assurance to clients and consumers of reporting services – the courts, attorneys, and litigants – that the stenographic reporters who serve them will meet the expected qualifications. The New Hampshire Advisory Board of Court Reporting’s licensure protects the investment that the public has in the justice system by ensuring that qualified individuals are working in New Hampshire and ensuring accountability for the quality of the record in official proceedings. It must be noted that the consequences that follow from an insufficient record of proceedings in court are ultimately borne by the state.

Terminating the licensing authority that regulates stenography will disrupt the court system in New Hampshire from operating smoothly and efficiently. Further, we believe that repeal of licensure will compromise the integrity of the court record. Lastly, terminating the licensure and regulation of court reporters in New Hampshire will indicate the House Judiciary Committee’s failure to protect a profession that is integral to the state’s court system as well as its failure to ensure that licensed court reporters retain their ability to provide irreplaceable services in the state. More importantly, this action would remove access to the most accurate record making option for the citizens of New Hampshire.

NCRA adamantly opposes the repeal of licensure and regulation for court reporters in New Hampshire as the removal of this licensing authority will significantly harm the New Hampshire court reporting community and ultimately deny the rights of citizens at large. If the accuracy and integrity of the record are of utmost importance, it is our stance that a licensed stenographic court reporter is the best means of ensuring that the record is protected.

I and the staff of NCRA stand ready to be of assistance. If you have questions, concerns, or a need for clarification, please contact NCRA Director of Government Relations Jocelynn A. Moore, Esq., at jmoore@ncra.org.

Very Respectfully,



Kristin M. Anderson, M.A., RPR, FCRR
2023-2024 NCRA President