



**National Court Reporters Association**  
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November 30, 2023

500 James Robertson Parkway  
Davy Crockett Tower, Conference Room 1-B  
Nashville, TN 37243

**Re: Opposition of the Proposed Sunset of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting**

Dear Distinguished Members of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance:

As President of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), which represents more than 12,000 members, including those in the state of Tennessee, we are writing to oppose the proposed sunset of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting, the licensing and regulatory entity for court reporting within the state. NCRA is the national accreditation body for stenographic court reporters and has been testing and certifying court reporters for more than 80 years.

We heartily disagree with the termination of the licensing authority for court reporters in Tennessee and emphasize that such a dissolution will damage the accuracy and security of the record. Moreover, citizens of Tennessee will be denied access to the most accurate record. Furthermore, not only will it have disastrous implications for the hardworking and highly skilled court reporters of Tennessee, 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 Tennessee Board of Court Reporting serves as the licensing body for court reporters in Tennessee. When a court reporter becomes licensed by the Board, the court reporter, the employer, and the public all benefit. Becoming a court reporter requires a high degree of skill – writing at up to 260 wpm – training, and accuracy. Absent a certification or licensure requirement, any individual can hold themselves out to be a court reporter.

Court reporters in Tennessee have operated effectively for years as certified court reporters. Their certifications provide assurance to clients and consumers of reporting services – the courts, attorneys, and litigants – that the court reporters who serve them either meet baseline and expected qualifications or have achieved even higher levels of certification available. The Tennessee 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 Tennessee 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 court reporting will disrupt the court system in Tennessee from operating smoothly and efficiently. Further, we believe that dissolution of the Board will compromise the integrity of the court record. Lastly, allowing the sunset of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting will indicate the Department's failure to protect a profession that is integral to the state's court system as well as its failure to ensure that certified 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 Tennessee.

NCRA strongly opposes the proposed sunset of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting, as the removal of this licensing authority will significantly harm the Tennessee 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 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](mailto:jmoore@ncra.org).

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin M. Anderson".

Kristin M. Anderson, RPR  
2023-2024 NCRA President