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Sen. Sarita Simmons
PO Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Re: MS SB 2899

March 21, 2025

Dear Sen. Simmons,

On behalf of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), I extend our heartfelt gratitude for the passage of Senate Bill 2899. This legislation stands as a testament to your commitment to upholding the integrity of Mississippi's judicial system, and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts to recognize and support the vital role of court reporters as officers of the court.

Court reporters are indispensable to the administration and restoration of justice, serving as guardians of the record with their unparalleled expertise. Their work ensures that every word spoken in judicial proceedings is captured with precision, preserving the accuracy and reliability essential to fair outcomes. By maintaining a secure, verbatim record, court reporters help keep our judicial system safe from errors, omissions, or technological failures that could compromise due process. Their presence strengthens public trust in the courts and upholds the rule of law for all Mississippians.

We are particularly grateful for the bipartisan support this legislation received, reflecting a shared understanding across party lines of the importance of judicial integrity and local jobs. Senate Bill 2899 not only reinforces the critical contributions of court reporters but also prioritizes the economic well-being of Mississippi communities by sustaining a skilled, homegrown workforce.

Thank you for your leadership and foresight in championing this measure. The passage of Senate Bill 2899 sends a powerful message about Mississippi's dedication to a robust, equitable, and secure justice system. NCRA remains committed to supporting these efforts, and we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Keith Lemons

Keith R. Lemons, FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.)
President, National Court Reporters Association