



National Court Reporters Association
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New York State Senate
Codes Committee
Attn: Senator Zellnor Myrie, Chair
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247

March 23, 2025

Re: NY S 4899 - Grants court reporters peace officer status

Dear Chair Myrie:

On behalf of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), I am writing to express our strong support for New York Senate Bill 4899, granting official court reporters peace officer status. This legislation enhances their ability to serve the judicial system effectively, and we are pleased to highlight its significance in bolstering their contributions to New York's judiciary.

Court reporters are dedicated professionals whose work is foundational to the administration and restoration of justice. This role is already critical to protecting due process, as the record they produce serves as the bedrock for appeals, legal reviews, and the fair resolution of disputes. S 4899 strengthens this function by affirming the importance of their dual role, including the peace officer designation where applicable, which grants them authority to maintain order and security within court facilities.

By providing court reporters with the legal authority to enforce court protocols, S 4899 ensures that proceedings occur without disruption, an essential factor in producing an uninterrupted and precise record. Additionally, this designation offers access to specialized training, such as that provided by the New York State Court Officers Academy, equipping them with skills in security, conflict resolution, and emergency response. This legislation directly contributes to judicial integrity and equal access to justice for New Yorkers. An accurate record upholds the constitutional rights of all involved. S 4899 represents a commitment to maintaining the high standards that court reporters bring to New York's judicial system.

To further explore the importance of court reporters, I invite you to engage with our Government Relations Department. We are eager to provide additional resources and insights to support your deliberations. Additionally, our New York-based court reporter members are available to meet with you to share their experiences and perspectives.

Thank you for your continued dedication to strengthening New York's judicial system. We respectfully encourage your support for S 4899 and appreciate your consideration of the vital role court reporters play, particularly when empowered as peace officers, in serving the people of New York.

Sincerely,

Keith Lemons

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