



National Court Reporters Association
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Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CA AB 882 – Electronic court reporting

March 23, 2025

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), I write to convey our staunch opposition to California Assembly Bill 882, which proposes electronic court reporting throughout the state's justice system. This legislation introduces significant pitfalls that threaten the administration and restoration of justice in California. We urge you to reconsider this measure considering its profound implications.

The cornerstone of any judicial proceeding is an accurate, reliable record. A single trial can impact countless lives—both within the courtroom and beyond—touching families and communities for generations. An inaccurate record, whether due to technological failure, inaudible audio, or the inability to discern overlapping dialogue, can erode due process, compromise fair outcomes, and perpetuate injustice. Certified court reporters, as dedicated officers of the court, ensure that every word is captured with precision, safeguarding the integrity of the judicial process. Electronic systems, however advanced, lack the human judgment and real-time adaptability required to uphold this standard, risking errors with consequences that resonate far beyond the courtroom.

Court reporters earn their certifications through rigorous training and demonstrate unwavering consistency in accuracy. Their commitment to excellence is not merely a job but a calling to serve justice as trusted stewards of the official record. To outsource any of their duties to electronic means is, in effect, an outsourcing of due process for Californians—a step that undermines the rights of every individual who relies on the courts for fairness and resolution. The stakes are too high to entrust this responsibility to fallible technology over proven human expertise.

Our California-based court reporter members are available to meet with you, offering firsthand insight into their indispensable role in the judicial system. Additionally, NCRA's leadership is prepared to engage directly to discuss the broader implications of this legislation should it reach your desk.

Sincerely,
Keith Lemons

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