

I am writing to express my concerns in regards to the proposal of requiring all VRS interpreters to have RID Certification. Of course, working towards and having certification is the goal of every ethical, professional, driven interpreter. That being said, it is a process. As the profession grows, we've seen more parameters put in place before an interpreter can sit for certification testing, including RID's upcoming requirement of a BA degree. While it is true that certification tests a level of skill, it's important to remember that it tests a level of skill on the date of testing. Whether or not someone is certified, they still might have a bad day on the job – and yes, that includes a bad day on the job in VRS. As an employee in VRS, my employer screens all applicants for a minimum skill level, monitors the work of all employees to ensure skills standards are being met, carefully monitors consumer feedback on interpreter skill, provides ongoing professional development and does everything in its power to support a certification process that is becoming more and more challenging to achieve. The demands on call volume in VRS and the need for more interpreters are already at a crucial level. By implementing mandatory certification on a group that is already working hard for consumers and working towards certification if they don't already have it, you are imposing another strain on already strained system.

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