

Hello,

I have grown up a coda(Child of a Deaf Adult) my whole life and have had this culture in my background for as long as I have lived. I have had my good days and my bad days. Its almost impossible to work in this field have a perfect track record. In the VRS field you can be commended on your work one call and be dethroned the next. it?s a very difficult field and requires a ?utility? interpreter. it?s a job that?s not made for every interpreter out there. Even nationally certified interpreters have a hard time. I?ve been in the VRS field just under 5 years and have watched it grow.

I think the language needs to be changed in the proceeding to where there is a grandfathering system and it gets phased in. I do believe that it is important to have a national cert. and I?m wholeheartedly working at it. Working with mentors and going to god knows how many workshops trying to expand my knowledge. To top it off the test would cost an upwards amount of 600 dollars total. Now that?s not money that some people have to just go and take a test. I myself have taken it twice so I?ve spent that money already. All I am asking is to think about how many people this is going to affect. Not only will this sound like a reach for RID to make money but it will single-handedly eliminate more than half of the interpreters in this field. Which would then lead to Waiting time increasing, people getting over worked, and that leads to a dissatisfied customer. That?s what this is about isn?t it? The customer? I do not think blindly making this decision will be a good one.

So let me leave you with this. Don?t eliminate peoples jobs based on a national certification. Work on making the future for this field to get stronger and better for the customer and for the interpreter. Lets be perfectly blunt here without interpreters this field would not exist. Grandfathering the interpreters who are competent for this job, and maybe set up a screening system to weed out who may not be competent. I just BEG that you don?t do this blindly and say a national test will be the answer because it wont it will kill this field in the water.