

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposal to have all VRS Interpreters nationally certified. I am currently a working interpreter who is not certified. I understand the concern to have all interpreters on the same skill level, however I think that mandating the certification is not the means to do it. I am a working mother who does not qualify to take the certification test because of not meeting the current college requirements. I am involved in continuing skill training and feel that my skills are on the same level as those who are currently working along side me on a daily basis. Continued education to improve your working skills are necessary to any field. If the proposal passes that means you are saying an interpreter who is newly out of college with no working experience qualifies to be hired in place of those who have the working experience for many yrs. That is not the case. I do agree that companies should continue to provide skill advancement but having a piece of paper and no experience is not the answer. Those working in the field have already gone through assessments and evaluations to make sure that their skills are on the highest level in order to provide superior customer service and that should continue regardless of having a certification. I think passing this proposal will be harmful not only to those like myself who value their jobs and work to be professionals but also the customers we strive to service everyday.