

I work for a major VRS provider, as a scheduler for interpreters. I can definitely say that if the FCC mandates that all VRS interpreters need to be RID certified as an industry we will not have enough interpreters to provide a functionally equivalent service for Deaf consumers. The goal of the VRS industry is to try and provide, as best it can, a functional equivalent service for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities. If this mandate goes through our pool of interpreters nationwide for any VRS provider will be extremely undercut. Just because there are many interpreters with RID certification out there does not mean that all of them work in the VRS industry. I agree that certification should be a requirement to work in the VRS industry, but making it so that RID is the only certification that is valid for work in the VRS industry is wrong and will severely hinder the overall goal of the VRS industry.