

I am writing in regards to RID's proposal that all VRS interpreters should be certified. As a working VRS interpreter I disagree with this proposal. To say that RID is the only organization to deem an interpreters skills "good enough" to work is questionable. Many VRS companies have a screening test in place that an interpreter must pass to be able to begin training. Some people who have taken both the NIC and these VRS screening tests say that the VRS test is by far more difficult than RID's certification exam. With that being said, why is it that many certified interpreters are unable to pass the screening test to be able to work for VRS? There are many interpreters within the VRS field who are not certified. We are just as qualified as the certified interpreter to do our job well and leave the customers with a smile on their faces. Beginning in July all interpreters wanting to take the NIC exam must have a bachelors degree. I hope that if this proposal is accepted that the FCC will allow the non-certified interpreters of VRS to continue to work, while taking classes to obtain this goal of certification.