

As the sibling of a deaf adult and an employee working in the scheduling of VRS interpreters I would like to say that while requiring all VRS interpreters to obtain national certification might seem logical, there are many practical reasons why it should not be considered. First and foremost, a huge number of highly skilled interpreters would be put out of work or declined employment by the decision which would then result in much longer wait times for all VRS users due to the staffing shortages. Because of the increased burden, the burnout and injury rate of the remaining interpreters would also be much higher resulting in even greater loss of service quality to all VRS users. This is a big concern since the available pool of RID certified interpreters willing and able to do VRS work is very small and the job growth rate of qualified interpreters, particularly with the added RID requirement of a bachelor's degree before testing, is very slow.

I have the upmost respect for RID and what they stand for and what they have done but a monopoly cannot be allowed regardless. Also, two of the main reasons I have heard given as to why people choose state certification over RID is because of the high and on-going cost requirements of becoming RID certified and the fact that many state tests can be every bit as valid in determining interpreter skill level. It is important to realize that a VRS company knows they will not succeed and grow unless consumers are satisfied with the service so it is in their best interest to put very strict skills assessments in place before they would ever consider hiring someone. High standards are in the best interest of everyone involved however requiring all VRS interpreters to become nationally certified is not the answer and in fact would be extremely detrimental on many levels.