



**SELIGSON REPORTING**  
**Certified Professional Reporters**  
682 ESTELLE COURT, ORANGE, CT 06477

February 26, 2008

Co-chairmen State Sen. Colapietro, State Representative Stone, and Distinguished Members of the General Law Committee:

I am writing to you today as President of the Connecticut Court Reporters Association. I am currently serving my third year as President and have served on the Executive Committee for the past six years.

We are in favor of Senate Bill 272 for the following reasons and we hope you will give your support to this bill as well.

In the State of Connecticut, we currently have mandatory licensure under the rules and regulations of the Department of Consumer Protection State Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters. When the original legislation went into effect on January 1, 1999, there was never a provision allowing the Department of Consumer Protection through the Board of Examiners to impose a monetary fine on a reporter or agency owner for any violation of the licensure requirement. This bill closes that loophole.

In order to be licensed by the DCP, a reporter must first undergo rigorous training, pass a test, and take continuing education in order to maintain that license. Currently, there is no penalty that can be imposed to stop reporters from neighboring states from coming into Connecticut and taking away jobs from conscientious, professional reporters who abide by the laws of this state.

In addition to granting civil penalties under Section (e); Section (d) provides that a reporter shall now be required to display their Ct. license number on all business cards, stationery, transcripts, advertisements or other document used by such reporter pertaining to his or her practice of shorthand reporting.

Also, it should be noted that this is a "no cost" bill, incurring no expense to the taxpayers of this state, while protecting them from unscrupulous and very possibly unqualified reporters.

This bill will allow appropriate penalties to be enforced by the Department of Consumer Protection through the Board of Examiners against both the reporter who is working without a license, as well as the agency owner who sends that reporter out on a job.

We have had mandatory licensure for court reporters in the State of Connecticut for nearly a decade, but what we have not had was any tangible, monetary penalty for those who violate that licensure requirement. Passage of this bill will protect not only the duly authorized reporters of this state, but also the public by ensuring that only qualified, licensed reporters are providing the critical service of making and protecting the record.

Sincerely,

  
Les Seligson  
President, CCRA