



Good Afternoon, Chairman Winfield, Chairman Stafstrom and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Christine Mannix. I am the current president of the CT Court Reporters Association and co-owner of Mannix & Mancini Reporting Services. I have been a stenographic court reporter in Connecticut for the past 30 years, and I am appearing today to speak on behalf of stenographers in CT with regards to proposed House Bill 6505.

As a result of the pandemic, stenographers, like many others, were unable to work for a period of time. Fortunately, because of Executive Orders 7K and 7Q, we were able to resume working in a remote fashion due to the remote notary provision in those executive orders. We would like to codify the provisions in those executive orders so that stenographic court reporters can continue to work remotely.

Initially this order allowed stenographers to continue working as most law practices, schools, and places of employment were closed to the public. Along the way, many benefits of this remote practice became apparent. Attorneys, stenographers, and parties were able to continue the judicial process in a safe environment. This process also allowed the stenographers and the attorneys to be more efficient by fitting multiple depositions and other proceedings into a day because there was no travel involved. Snow days were a thing of the past, thus increased productivity for all. And parents who were unable to send their children to school or to childcare were still able to participate remotely.

Additionally, CCRA has concerns about the language in Section 42(4), lines 2942-2943, "or any other entity", allowing, essentially making it law that anyone – so long as designated by the right court employee – can provide transcript. Like all matters, we are happy to talk about this in greater detail.

As April approaches and a possible end to the executive orders that allow us to continue working draws near, stenographers have expressed concern that these orders need to be extended and that we endeavor to create a law that will allow this practice of remote oath administration by court reporters to continue indefinitely.

I urge you to consider this to keep CT stenographic reporters working through the duration of the pandemic and beyond.

Thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Christine Mannix
CT Court Reporters Association