

July 14, 2017



Take Action

Hello, and welcome back to the PAC Take Action newsletter! NCRA's Government Relations team takes pride in continuing to serve you and to help you stay informed about legislative developments in the court reporting profession.

NCRA's Government Relations team works around the clock to monitor potential legislation that affects court reporting and captioning, and to educate lawmakers about the profession and why they should protect it. Grassroots advocacy is the most important tool to accomplish this. Legislators must respond to the will of the people; the more people tell their legislators what that will is, the more likely lawmakers will act on that will. For more information about how your Government Relations team can help you advocate for the court reporting and captioning professions in your state, contact Matthew Barusch, State Government Relations Manager, at mbarusch@ncra.org.

State of the Nation



On Capitol Hill, Republicans continue to work on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The Better Care Reconciliation Act, which awaits consideration in the Senate, was released to the public before the July 4 recess. The text closely mirrors the language passed by the House, and includes greater use of alternative approaches to manage insurance costs, including expanded tax benefits associated with health savings accounts and repealing the limit on flexible spending account contributions.

After a Congressional Budget Office score estimated that 22 million people will be uninsured by 2026 if the Better Care Reconciliation Act is passed, a vote on the bill was postponed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. A timeline for further consideration of this bill has not yet been established, due to several Republican senators stating their inability to vote for the measure as it currently stands. The Senate will remain in session throughout the first two weeks of August, as McConnell has postponed the August recess to address this legislation.

The Senate bill also addresses Small Business Health Plans, another name for Association Health Plans. NCRA has supported the Association Health Plans initiative in years past. However, this new legislation would require these plans to be certified by the Secretary of Labor and fully insured through providers in the large market. Through this bill, associations would not be able to offer insurance directly themselves.

State of the States

Most of the developments in the court reporting profession occurred in the states. Several pieces of legislation relevant to the court reporting profession have moved through the legislative process in the last month. Below is a breakdown of the important developments in court reporting legislation. To stay up to date on all actions on bills in your state, tap to see a full list of all [pending legislation](#).



California

CA AB 1450: This bill would require an official reporter to deliver a transcript in electronic form to any court, party, or person entitled to the transcript. This bill was amended to state that no reporter is required to use a specific vendor, technology, or software to comply with this requirement and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote. This measure now awaits consideration in the Appropriations Committee.

CA AB 1660: This bill requires court reporting firms to be registered with the state as a provider of services and to adhere to the same laws that apply to certified shorthand reporters. This bill also creates an online directory of registered providers. The measure passed the Senate Business and Professions Committee on July 3 by a 5-1 vote, and now awaits consideration in the Appropriations Committee.



Nevada

NV SB 406: This bill enacts new changes to court reporting regulations in Nevada. The most important change removes the practical demonstration portion requirement of the Nevada Certified Court Reporter exam and replaces that requirement with NCRA's Registered Professional Reporter exam. Governor Brian Sandoval approved this measure on June 4.

2017 NCRA Convention & Expo in Las Vegas

NCRA Political Action Committee remains strong and dedicated to establishing relationships with members of Congress that will protect the court reporting profession and its reporters. Your PAC contribution goes to support members and candidates of Congress who support court reporting and will act to enhance and bolster the profession at the national level. Remember, without your contributions and support, NCRA could not do what we do to support the profession!

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to cancel the 2017 Men of Court Reporting calendar. We will be exploring ways to bring a new and innovative version of this popular item to our members in the future. Thank you to all of you who submitted nominations for members; we hope that your enthusiasm will carry over into our new exciting 2017 Convention PAC fundraiser!

NCRA President Tiva Wood, FAPR, RDR, CMRS, and President-Elect Chris Willette, RDR, CRR, CRC, are committed to supporting your PAC. To that end, they have decided to put their money where their mouths are and may be putting on a show for us at the 2017 Convention! If we raise \$5,000 in member contributions to the NCRA PAC by the President's Party on Saturday night, Aug. 12, Tiva and Chris will perform a song of the members' choice at the President's Party as a way to say thank you.

In addition to our exciting giveaways that members will receive with each PAC donation at Convention (visit the PAC booth to see what they are!), we will be raffling off an Amazon Fire HD tablet for those who contribute \$100 or more to the PAC.

Finally, NCRA's Government Relations Department will be conducting legislative consulting sessions during the 2017 Convention. If you would like to meet with Government Relations staff for a consult or have any questions about our 2017 Convention PAC fundraisers, please email Matt Barusch at mbarusch@ncra.org.

National Court Reporters Association | 800-272-6272 | msic@ncra.org | NCRA.org

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