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**Introduced by Senator Jackson**

February 5, 2018

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to court reporters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 95, as introduced, Jackson. Court reporters.

This measure would proclaim February 10, 2018, to February 17, 2018, inclusive, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week, and would request that the Governor issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and educational activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For millennia, individuals have wanted the spoken  
2 word translated into text to record history and to accomplish this  
3 task have relied on scribes; and  
4 WHEREAS, The profession of scribe was born with the rise of  
5 civilization; and  
6 WHEREAS, In ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be  
7 the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents  
8 and, since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history;  
9 and  
10 WHEREAS, Scribes were present with our nation’s founding  
11 fathers as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights  
12 were drafted; and  
13 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln entrusted scribes to  
14 record the Emancipation Proclamation; and

1 WHEREAS, Since the advent of shorthand machines, these  
2 scribes have been known as court reporters and have played a  
3 permanent and invaluable role across our country; and

4 WHEREAS, Court reporters are present in the California State  
5 Legislature, preserving legislators' words and actions; and

6 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for  
7 keeping a complete, accurate, secure, and unbiased record of  
8 courtroom proceedings and other legal matters, including civil  
9 depositions; and

10 WHEREAS, Through the Transcript Reimbursement Fund,  
11 court reporters fund and are responsible for providing courtroom  
12 transcripts to indigent litigants; and

13 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for  
14 the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at  
15 sporting stadiums, and in other community and educational settings,  
16 bringing information to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing  
17 Americans every day; and

18 WHEREAS, Court reporters regularly volunteer to document  
19 educational events and to capture veterans' oral histories at  
20 community events; and

21 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 8,500 Californians working  
22 as court reporters and captioners; and

23 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners translate the spoken  
24 word into text and preserve our history; and

25 WHEREAS, Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court  
26 reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who preserve  
27 our nation's history are truly the guardians of the record; now,  
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims February 10,  
31 2018, through February 17, 2018, inclusive, as California Court  
32 Reporting and Captioning Week, and requests that the Governor  
33 issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of  
34 California to observe the day with appropriate programs,  
35 ceremonies, and educational activities; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
37 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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