Date

Governor Newsom
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1385 - Court Reporter Transcript Rate

Dear Governor Newsom:

I became a certified shorthand reporter in [year]. I am a/an freelance/official reporter. I am proud to be a part of the court reporting profession. However, our transcript compensation structure is unique in California. As a result, court reporters who work in court are not paid for any overtime transcript work done in the evenings or weekends. Instead, we receive a statutorily set transcript fee pursuant to GC69950. This fee amount has not been changed since 1990.

**Some talking points you can highlight are:**

29 years without a rate increase

Female-dominated profession

Being an independent contractor and working per diem for the courts, I do not receive the benefits of being employed by the court. However, by statute, I am bound by the statutory fees set 30 years ago

Transcript money is used to put my children through private school/college

I am a professional woman supporting my family on rates not changed for 30 years

Reporters personally pay scopists and proofreaders whose pay has increased

Court Reporters fund their own technology and equipment

Costs of supplies for producing transcripts have gone up: updated software for electronic production of secure transcripts, as well as paper, toner, covers – all statutorily required

Current rate not commensurate with the cost of living increases for the past 30 years

Nights, weekends, holidays spent after regular working hours producing transcripts

 It is time to update this fee. Please support me and the thousands of court reporters in the state achieve this pay equity. FUND AB 1385!

Sincerely,

[INSERT YOUR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND/OR NAME]