May 10, 2017

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Governor, State of California

Office of the Governor

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA  95814

**RE:   Budget Request: Court Reporters Transcript Rate Increase**

Governor Brown,

My name is (your name here). I am writing in support of a budget inclusion for a transcript rate increase for official and pro tempore court reporters. California law has capped the fee paid to court reporters for production of official court transcripts since 1991. We need to adjust the long-standing cap to partially accommodate for inflation and to ensure that California’s court reporters are properly and fairly compensated for their work.

\*\*ADD IN A PARAGRAPH IN YOUR OWN WORDS. IDEAS:

Court reporters play a vital role in the administration of justice in the state of California by capturing a wide variety of court proceedings and producing and protecting the official record.

Transcripts ensure access to justice by giving litigants a verbatim record of proceedings to use for appeal purposes as well as reviewing proceedings for possible constitutional violations, and the fair and proper evaluation of appeals.

As an attorney, court reporters and their transcripts are a valuable component to my work in the legal field.

As a citizen, I want the best accurate record of the proceedings in our courts of law. Court reporters and their transcripts are known as the “gold standard.” Litigants demand nothing but the best.

My aunt is a court reporter. She is the hardest working person I know. Her important job allows litigants to utilize the official record for appeals and orders.

Official court reporters and pro tem reporters, more than 90% of whom are women, provide a valuable service for our judicial system and the public it serves.

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The inclusion of this budget item will confirm California’s commitment to the court reporting profession and will send a message to those seeking to join our workforce that the compensation for their hard work will be fair and adjusted over time.

We ask that you stand behind California’s court reporters by supporting a transcript rate increase.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Your name here\*\*

CC: Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

Senator Kevin DeLeon, President Pro Tem, California State Senate

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly