

OPPOSING SB 90

- The National Association of Voice Writers (NVRA) has no members residing in Oregon. If there are no voice writers, why do we need legislation to accommodate them?
- The Oregon Court Reporter Association, which was formed over 50 years ago when all that was available was the stenograph machine, only allows membership to a stenograph reporter. They do not allow voice writers in their organization. Why would they sponsor a bill to let voice-writers be involved in the voluntary certification program when they will not even allow them to be members?
- The sponsors of this bill need the support of the voice writers to promote SB 635, which only allows certain methods to report aggravated murder trials. This effectively keeps all the work limited to a very small group and excludes video and digital recording.
- For over a decade a small group of court reporters have attempted to pass some version of SB 635, which will only allow stenograph reporters to court report a murder trial; however, to garner more support in the legislation they have decided to add the voice writers to the voluntary certification even though they will not allow voice writers into the stenograph only association. This bill is truly a turf war bill with the ultimate goal to keep out video and digital recording, which is the wave of the future and is now in 70% of all courtrooms.
- SB 90 is a companion bill to SB 635, which has the ultimate goal of closing the door on any new and current technology in the market place.