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SCR-81 California Court Reporting and Captioning Week. (2019-2020)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81

CHAPTER 11

Relative to California Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State March 04, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 81, Jackson. California Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of February 8, 2020, to February 15, 2020, inclusive, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week and request the Governor to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and educational activities.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, For millennia, individuals have wanted the spoken word translated into text to record history, and to accomplish this task have relied on scribes; and

WHEREAS, The profession of scribe was born with the rise of civilization; and

WHEREAS, In ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents and, since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history; and

WHEREAS, Scribes were present with our nation's founding fathers as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights were drafted; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln entrusted scribes to record the Emancipation Proclamation; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at sporting stadiums, and in other community and educational settings, bringing information to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing

Americans every day; and

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims February 8, 2020, to February 15, 2020, inclusive, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week, and requests that the Governor issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and educational activities; and be it further

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