

**HB1138**

**Testimony**

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Regarding House Bill 1138, set for hearing on Tuesday, March 22nd at 9:15 a.m. in Conference Room 016 of the State Capitol, As an owner of a freelance court reporting office, I wholeheartedly support the passage of this measure. Our billings for transcripts of depositions, statements, arbitrations, hearings, etc., quite often take up to 6 months to be paid and frequently, when following up, we are told the noticing attorney/firm is not responsible for the bill and for us to seek payment from their client. This direction was not made at the time of the noticing and taking of the testimony. Had it been, the issue could have been addressed by requiring payment to be made up front. Finding this out three, four, five months later it usually too late to be of any help in collecting. Passage of this measure will enable independent court reporters as well as court reporting firms an opportunity to make good business decisions to guarantee receiving payment for their services.

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