

WHEREAS, Language Access is a fundamental civil right to all users of government services and institutions, ensuring the participation of all minorities government and healthcare services, to enable a full participation in civil life in our democratic system;

WHEREAS, the use of properly qualified Interpreters and Translators is a great concern affecting the quality of Language Access and the exercise of fundamental rights for millions of people in our nation's institutions, including courts, the immigration system and healthcare institutions;

WHEREAS, the use of a Certified Interpreter is a best practice that government and healthcare providers should employ whenever possible and uphold; and

WHEREAS, many contractors in the government and healthcare services resort to the use of unqualified and uncertified interpreters in order to bid low contract offers that have the effect of lowering the wage market of interpreters and translators, many of whom are Union brothers and sisters;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that TNG/CWA endorses the exclusive use of Certified Interpreters as providers of interpreter services in the government and healthcare sectors, to the extent that certifications apply, and stand for the promotion of proper certification standards where they do not yet exist, as best practices for their industry.