

Resolution 24

Amending the Federal Court Interpreter Legislation to Include the Territories and Commonwealths of the United States

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices, along with the Conference of State Court Administrators, have endorsed the concept of establishing a federal program to assist state courts in providing court interpreter services; and

WHEREAS, S. 1733 has been introduced in Congress which would establish a federal grant program to assist the states in providing court interpreter services; and

WHEREAS, S. 1733 does not define states as including the territories and commonwealths of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the territories and commonwealths of the United States have similar limitations and requirements as the states as described in S. 1733;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference reaffirms its support of this legislation and urges the sponsors of this legislation to add a definition of states to include the Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealths of the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico as eligible recipients to receive court interpreter assistance.

Adopted as proposed by the Access to and Fairness in the Courts Committee of the Conference of Chief Justices at the 27th Midyear Meeting on January 21, 2004.