



Louisiana State Paralegal Association, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

P. O. Box 51690
Lafayette, LA 70505

May 14, 2018

Dear LSPA member:

LSPA had a history-making week! As you know, LSPA has been very actively involved in efforts to preserve the rights of Louisiana paralegals to proudly display their “Certified” credentials, which rights were threatened in [Louisiana House Bill 748](#).

In addition to all the efforts you, our members, made to reach out to your Senators and let them know how you felt about the legislation, your LSPA Board members have been incredible warriors in this fight. As soon as we learned of the pending legislation, your Board members went to work. LSPA was the only state organization to join forces with about forty national and global credentialing organizations representing the broadest spectrum of professionals. Working with a public policy law firm out of Washington, DC, LSPA and its coalition partners went to work to defeat the bill, or at a minimum to revise it to remove the provisions restricting CPs, ACPs, and LCPs from including the word “certified” in their title. Each time it appeared we were close to a good outcome in our negotiations on the language of the bill, something happened that caused us concern. But we all kept fighting.

On Wednesday, May 9, the bill was on the agenda to be heard before the Senate Commerce Committee. Members of the coalition were asked to send representatives to testify before the Committee. And again, your Board members stepped up in a big way. Without hesitation we signaled our willingness to appear at the hearing and stand up for the paralegals of Louisiana. The committee room was packed to overflowing and the legislators commented they seldom had seen such a force of opposition to a piece of legislation. We are pleased to report that, after two weeks of negotiations at every level of government, dozens of amendments were adopted, and ultimately all that was left of the legislation was this one sentence - *“Pursuant to the authority in this Chapter, the governor shall review on an annual basis not less than twenty percent of the agencies engaged in regulatory and licensing activities. Within five years, the governor shall have reviewed all such agencies.”* Needless to say, we were elated at the outcome. If you are interested in watching the broadcast of that hearing, you can find it here (be patient – it takes a while to load).

http://senate.la.gov/video/videoarchive.asp?v=senate/2018/05/050918COM_0

At this time we expect the bill, as amended by the Commerce Committee, to be presented to the full Senate for a vote. We will continue to monitor the legislation and keep you informed as it makes its way to the Governor’s desk.

On behalf of the entire LSPA Board, I want to tell you how proud we are to represent you, our members, how thankful we are for the trust you have placed in us, and how excited we are to be kicking off our new year in such a big way. We all look forward to seeing you at future LSPA events.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen Greer McGee, ACP

LSPA President

(318) 227-3703

kgmccgee2@gmail.com