Creating a board such as this is a complete negation of our RID national certification, which is designed to assess skill level, and the screening processes of the interpreting agencies for which we contract.

It is simply not appropriate for a group of local people to be deciding whether a nationally certified interpreter can no longer work in their state because they think their opinion is more valid than the skills assessments we have already gone through. If they do not like the current certification process, there are measures in place to effect change already. This would be a misuse of finances to pay for such a board.

Additionally, there are a good number of interpreters with diverse backgrounds, some of which are past legal issues, who are better interpreters for the things that have been through to arrive where they are. To override current background check processes in place by the facilities receiving services (think Amazon, Kaiser Permanente, Boeing) AND interpreting agencies providing the services, and instead have a handful of unqualified people making a decision about these people's future in the career, is a gross overstep. Some of these people have been working on the field for decades, supporting their families, and now their careers are in jeopardy. It is terrifying to witness.

There is already a shortage of interpreters in the nation. If issues are seen, there are plenty of stops already in place that can be remedied, rather than adding another barrier and hand-picking favorites, creating a vastly less diverse pool of interpreters.

Many of these people are afraid to voice up for fear of outing their backgrounds - backgrounds of which they have spent many years overcoming to get where they are. If they simply do not have the skills to interpret, they will not receive certification. If their background is validly an impediment on a specific job, the agency and facility both already check for what they see necessary.

This would be a poor allocation of time and money, and could negatively impact many interpreters. It is simply an unnecessary redundancy for a group of people who want to overrule the current systems in place, rather than try to fix anything they see needing Improvement.