

To Whom in may concern.

Hello my name is Andres I Avila and I am a citizen living in Portland Oregon since 1998. I am a National & State Certified Health Care Interpreter and a Qualified Legal Interpreter in Spanish. I am writing to you in order to request your support for the HB 2231.

As a freelance interpreter (independent contractor) working with local and out of the state interpretation agencies I have been experiencing discrimination, inequities, harassment, inaccurate or missing payments for services provided, retaliation, unfair labor practice, job limitations, lack of free training, underpayment and never received recognition.

We believe that:

- HB 2231 will help to professionalize the industry by demanding transparency of services to be provided.
- We need clear terms of employment for interpreters. Clear and consistent contracts are needed to ensure that interpreters are well prepared to provide the necessary services to their clients.
- Through collective bargaining we hope to raise industry standards and advocate for accountability of all the stakeholders. The center of our work continues to be providing quality care and interpretation to our patients.
- We hope to raise awareness of best practices in this and ensure we are following existing law.
- We believe HB 2231 will assist our efforts in working towards fair pay and scheduling for interpreters. Scheduling and fair pay continue to be at the center of the issues that Healthcare interpreters face.
- This legislation will help to uplift the importance of the profession and the right to language access.
- Through this bill we hope to bridge the communication gap between interpreters, agencies and clients and strengthen internal communication systems. We want to work together and to solidify what the expectations should be in order to strengthen our services.
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Best regards,

Andres I Avila
1930 SW River Dr., Portland OR 97201