

Warmest greetings,

Esteemed Chair Monnes-Anderson,

Please allow for the submission of this addendum to my previous email testimony regarding the importance of Healthcare.

Perhaps even if SB 770 isn't passed immediately, perhaps the Oregon Health Authority might consider allowing the addition of exceptional clauses for inclusion into Medicaid programs any HCI Interpreters who are compliant with OEI and depend upon gig interpreting for their livelihood and survival, to:

Be considered by the OHA as contractable self employees, and be able to be enrolled into Medicaid; when months and years earn income w/in the poverty guidelines then standard Medicaid would apply, and when months and years are better or even very successful, then Interpreters would NOT be abandoned or kicked off, to become vulnerable to the vulturous and volatile private insurance industry, but be permitted to "buy-in" to Medicaid, contributing a predetermined percentage of annual income towards this insurance. Please please.

Especially because we come in contact with so many individuals w/in hospitals and clinics seeking urgent and primary care and often become sick ourselves as well... and maintaining insurance is critical to beneficial provider-patient relationships and positive outcomes, and general stability and well being.

I would be thrilled and vow to dedicate the rest of my life to assisting the OHA in every possible way that I can, if only I could have this option.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and incredible advocacy for Oregonians. Change is never easy and I admire your fortitude, common sense and passion for ensuring the well being and health of then people who live in our beautiful state. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline