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Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bob Brown, and I'm a leader with Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG), a broad-based organization of 25 faith, labor, healthcare, and community non-profits in the metropolitan tri-county area.

For many years, prior to implementation of the Affordable Care Act, MACG leaders worked on state health care issues to improve access and affordability for Oregonians, especially those most vulnerable.

I am here today on behalf of MACG to urge your support of Senate Bill 698 which requires pharmacists to label prescription drugs in languages other than English, as needed by patients of limited English proficiency.

This critical, common sense step comes to you through the tireless efforts of health professional students and faculty who are members of MACG through a local Health Equity Circle (HEC). HEC members work to address social factors that impact health outcomes for patients. Their experience of seeing refugee and immigrant residents unable to safely and appropriately take prescribed medications specifically due to inability to have the labeling in their own language, has driven their work to bring this bill before you today.

On behalf of MACG, I urge you to pass Senate Bill 698 to demonstrate your commitment to quality and equitable health care for all Oregon residents.

Thank you.

Bob Brown
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