

- My name is Bruce Monroe, and I am a nursing student from Hillsboro.
- I would like to start off by thanking the committee for allowing me to testify today in support of senate bill 698. I am honored to continue the work that was started by my peers. When I first heard about senate bill 698, I thought, this makes a lot of sense and I wondered why this has not been done in our state before. From my clinical experience this term, working with immigrants and refugees in Southeast Portland, I have developed a theory why.
- The immigrants and refugees that I work with do not have a voice in our government. Their lives are consumed by the large learning curve that is required to survive in our country. They do not have the time, money, or resources to come here today and speak for themselves. One of my clients has to collect cans to make ends meet. None of my clients make enough money to pay all of their bills. All of my clients have a language barrier that makes it difficult for them to navigate our country and our very complicated healthcare system.
- One of the clients we work with in Southeast Portland – let's call her Mary – wanted to be here today to share her story, but she couldn't make the trip. She is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mary speaks no English. She has several complex diagnoses and is prescribed many medications and has many pill bottles, none of which she or her husband can read. She is highly motivated to manage her

chronic conditions, but is not confident that she can accurately remember which medication is which.

- I ask you to imagine what it is like to come home with a bag full of pill bottles you cannot read and be expected to just remember which pill is which and how many to take. This is a quote from Mary, "I have so many medications. I don't know what is for what. They just give it to me and when I get home, I put it in a bag and I take them all. I don't know what for. When I have a problem, they give me another medication. I can't read what it is for and I don't know how to take them, it's confusing. Medicine is supposed to make you better and heal you, but it can also kill you when you don't know how to take it or what you are taking".
- According to provision 7.3 of the American Nurses Association's code of ethics, A nurse must participate as an advocate in civic activities related to health care through state initiatives. I am here today to provide a voice for the clients that I work with. Passing senate bill 698 will eliminate a discriminatory practice against individuals with limited English proficiency. Everyone has a right to understand the medications that they are taking. Members of the committee, I urge you to pass senate bill 698.  
Thank you for your time.