

Chair Andrea Salinas
House Health Care Committee
Letter of support of HB 4115

February 6, 2020

CHAIR SALINAS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE,

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a letter of support on HB 4115. We are pleased to provide the following letter.

The health care interpreter (HCI) is an essential part of the medical team. Interpreters offer a language and cultural bridge between a health care professional (like a doctor, nurse, dentist, etc.) and a limited English proficient (LEP) patient. This ensures the proper communication that allows for the LEP patient to receive quality medical care.

HB 4115 is an important step for furthering the health care interpreting profession. This bill will set a program with the Oregon Health Authority that would require health care providers, including coordinated care organizations, and companies providing health care interpreters to health care providers to use health care interpreters who are qualified or certified by Oregon Health Authority.

Molano Multicultural Communication LLC views this bill as a much-welcomed step to professionalize Oregon's Health Care Interpreting. This bill will benefit both urban and rural communities in Oregon and will allow our services to be utilized throughout the state.

We thank Chair Salinas for her continued work on this bill.

Thank you for your time- I am happy to answer any questions.

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