

Dear House Health Care Committee and Representative Salinas,

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a letter of support for advancing the health care interpretation industry, advancing health equity in Oregon. As a language services agency owners, we do everything in our power to provide free education for health care interpreting credentialing and to employ interpreters. We have questions before giving our support to HB 4115 as it is written but 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.

It is important to improve conditions 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.

We view this bill as a welcome attempt to bring more professionalization and equity to Oregon's medical interpreters, which needs to happen to make our health care system more just and our communities safer.

Thank you for your time. We are happy to answer any questions.

Blanche and Marc Michelle

Regards,

"At SACHE the customer has carte blanche"



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