



February 6, 2020

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

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Care Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for HB 4115.

The health care interpreter (HCI) is an essential part of the health care team. Interpreters offer a language and cultural bridge between health care professionals such as doctors, nurses or dentists, and patients with limited English proficiency. HCIs ensure accurate and appropriate two-way communication that allows these patients to receive quality medical care.

HB 4115 is an important step in strengthening the health care interpreting profession. This bill will require health care providers, coordinated care organizations, and companies that provide health care interpreters to health care providers to utilize HCIs qualified or certified by the Oregon Health Authority.

Washington County views this bill as a welcome step toward professionalizing Oregon's health care interpreting. It will benefit both urban and rural communities in Oregon and facilitate greater access to interpretive services throughout the state.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marni Kuyl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marni Kuyl, MS, RN  
Director, Washington County Health and Human Services