

Interpretation Accountability ACT

Vote "YES" on HB 4115

Health care interpreters are vital to ensure people with Limited English Proficiency are able to communicate in settings that range in complexity and intimacy, whether in a health care provider's office or a community meeting. To ensure that people with Limited English Proficiency receive quality language access services, all health care interpreters must be qualified or certified throughout this state.

Problem:

A current loophole allows health care providers and health care interpretation services to work with untrained health care interpreters even though there are qualified or certified health care interpreters by the Oregon Health Authority. Current law also does not hold health care providers and health care interpretation services accountable for working with unqualified or non-certified health care interpreters. HB 4115 addresses this.

Solution:

HB 4115 grants the Oregon Health Authority the authority to require health care providers to work with a health care interpreter that is registered with the health care interpreter registry maintained by the Oregon Health Authority.

HB 4115 grants the Oregon Health Authority, with the advice of the Oregon Council on Health Care Interpreters, to implement policies and process to hold health care interpretation services and health care providers accountable if they do not work with qualified or certified health care interpreters.

Currently, there is no clear complaint process for interpreters who experience wage or labor violations. **HB 4115 grants the Oregon Health Authority to collaborate with the Bureau of Labor and Industries or the Department of Justice to investigate complaints and impose appropriate remedial measures or civil penalties.**

To ensure that the health care interpreter workforce is professionalized, HB 4115 grants the Oregon Health Authority to design a program providing free or low cost training to ensure the qualification and certification of health care interpreters.

Currently Oregon law misclassifies health care interpreters as nonsubject workers. **HB 4115 amends current law to classify health care interpreters as subject workers for purposes of workers compensation, employment related benefits and working conditions.**

These standards will ensure that health care providers and health care interpretation services work with Oregon Health Authority qualified or certified health care interpreters from the health care interpreter registry ensuring that people are provided the best interpretation services.

Please help ensure that health care providers and health care interpretation services work with qualified and certified health care interpreters by voting "YES" on HB 4115.