

# OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**812 SW Washington Street, #900**

**Portland, OR 97205**

**[www.oregontriallawyers.org](http://www.oregontriallawyers.org)**

**503-467-8324**

Testimony of Jake Hessel,  
OTLA Deputy Political Director  
In support of HB 4115  
Before the House Committee on Health Care  
February 6, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jake Hessel, here with with the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. OTLA members are attorneys that advocate of patient safety and the rights of Oregon workers. We're here today on HB 4115 which will have a positive impact in both of those areas.

HB 4115 clarifies the status of healthcare interpreters as employees, which will help provide them access to medical treatment if they are injured on the job. The bill will also protect patients who are non-English speakers by giving them access to dependable interpretation services when receiving care.

**The bill does need one small amendment.** We have been working with the sponsor and other proponents of the bill on a short clause that protects existing patient and worker rights. That amendment language has been submitted and we hope for your support.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important issue and thank you to the proponents of this bill for your thoughtful work on HB 4115.