



245 SW BANCROFT STREET, SUITE E
PORTLAND, OR 97239

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 Oregon Latino Health Coalition is a statewide health advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating health disparities impacting one of the fastest growing, young and diverse population--Latinx Oregonians. At the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, we envision an Oregon where all have equitable opportunities and resources, leading to optimal health and fulfilling lives.

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.

Our organization the Oregon Latino Health Coalition 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.

Olivia Quiroz
Executive Director
Oregon Latino Health Coalition