

Dear Representatives Prusak, Hayden, Salinas and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

HB 2359 As Written, is discriminatory against the BIPOC Community

As currently written, HB 2359 singles out non, on-site staff health care interpreters and requires, under Section 1) (6), that interpreters on the registry receive all of the vaccines recommended by the CDC for Health Care Workers.

Under Oregon law, for those interpreters who ARE on-site staff, they would be considered health care workers fitting the definition under ORS 433.407, "Definitions for ORS 433.407 to 433.423." ORS 433.416 (3) which applies to health care workers, provides that "A worker shall not be required as a condition of work to be immunized."

Oregonians value inclusion and equity and Section 1) paragraph (6) of HB 2359, is a step in the opposite direction. The bill as drafted will create two separate classes of interpreters with different obligations that bear no rational basis for the distinction.

While I support the overall intent of the bill, I oppose the bill as written and ask the Committee to amend the bill to remove Section 1) paragraph (6).

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