

HB 2359 Relating to health care interpreters; declaring an emergency.

The American healthcare system does not serve the American population. This obvious and sobering fact have not been more evident in last several months, as we have witnessed the deaths poor people due to COVID-19 pandemic. The inability to secure resources to address the healthcare crisis in rural areas and particularly communities of color is a familiar problem to anyone with a coherent understanding of the American healthcare system.

It is often said, if Americans have a cold, then POC communities catches the flu. The onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic was apparent in POC communities, indigenous communities even more evident. The American healthcare system is a failure, and it is no mystery why it so often fails the American people, particular people of color. The collapsing public infrastructure is rooted in systemic oppression and racism, and the healthcare system is stark example of this oppression. The consistent lie of racism is that it benefits most white people. Just as Dr. King observed the poor white people had nothing to feed their children but "Jim Crow". Racism keep us divided in self-destructing ways, while some maybe materially rich, we all are spiritually staved, racism cost for everyone.

However, Oregon future can look different if we choose to have the courage and to face the problems that effects all. With the passing of HB 2359 we can begin to bring into balance a healthcare system, which starts to address healthcare inequities in Oregon. With the passing of HB 2359 it makes clear how vital healthcare interpreters are to ensuring everyone has access to quality healthcare.