



January 31, 2023

To: House Committee on Education

From: NW Regional Education Service District

Re: Support for HB 2240

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the House Committee on Education

Northwest Regional ESD fully supports HB 2240. As a program coordinator for K-12 speech-language services in K-21 settings, I am in support of HB 2240 which exempts licensed healthcare providers (employees or contractors) working in birth - 21 education programs, public charter schools, and education service districts from the requirement to use healthcare interpreters. Our educational system currently provides access to education interpretation services to address accessibility during meetings with parents and evaluations with students.

The enactment of HB 2359 in 2022 presented unintended significant licensure compliance implications for licensed healthcare providers working in birth - 21 educational programs as they are working in systems with a different accessibility structure to interpretation and translation services. A requirement to only use licensed healthcare interpreters in place of our standard interpretation services would have placed a significant burden on districts and created an unintentional barrier to access for families as it will immediately create a backlog of interpretation demand. We believe this was indeed an unintended consequence and we are happy to see legislation to clarify as such.

We appreciate and support the clarification provided and strongly urge passage of HB 2240.

Sincerely,

Ana Lia Oliva, Ed.D. CCC-SLP  
NW Regional ESD - SLP Program Coordinator