



Compass Oncology Testimony for House Committee on Health Care, HB 2538

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee:

As Executive Director of Compass Oncology, I am writing today in support of HB 2538 which would ensure clinician reimbursement for health care interpretation services.

As background, Compass Oncology is the largest independent oncology and hematology practice in the region with over 38 physicians and 23 advanced practice providers. Our goal is to provide comprehensive oncology care to the community with our team of specialists including medical oncology, hematology, radiation oncology, gynecologic oncology, breast surgery services, and palliative care. We also offer vital supportive care services such as genetic evaluation, social work, physical therapy, survivorship, and patient education. Our cancer specialists have subspecialty expertise in every type of cancer, including rare malignancies, and also provide a robust research trial offering. We are dedicated to advancing high-quality, low cost, evidence-based cancer care.

As you may know, in 2021 HB 2359 was signed into law and requires clinicians to provide certified health care interpretation services to patients. We appreciate the concept of this legislation, but these services come at a significant cost to clinics such as ours. Currently, we are responsible for covering the full cost of services for patients who have commercial insurance, Medicare or those uninsured. In 2022, health care interpretation services cost Compass Oncology hundreds of thousands of dollars. On top of that, there are significant administrative challenges obtaining reimbursement for the very few plans that do cover services.

At Compass, we pride ourselves on providing the best quality of care in a community environment that prioritizes patient comfort and values the services health care interpreters provide. This is especially true when treating cancer due to the complexities of treatment plans, medications, and the administrative processes. These services are essential to ensure there is adequate communication between patients and their clinical care team, and payment for them should be distributed in an equitable way.

We ask for your support of HB 2538 and look forward to working with you on this legislation. We are available to be a resource or answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Liza Bohmer
Executive Director
Compass Oncology