



## Testimony in support of HB 2538

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

I am writing today to express support from the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians for HB 2538, which would ensure clinician reimbursement for health care interpretation services.

The OAFP is an organization with more than 1,700 members, working in settings ranging from urgent care to hospice care. Our members provide excellent primary care for patients in every corner of the state. Through the decade-plus that this body has crafted health care transformation in Oregon, family physicians have been a partner to state policymakers in changing how they practice, how their work is measured, and how they are paid.

Oregon can be proud of the strides we have taken to provide more equitable, responsive and appropriate care to all Oregonians, and HB 2359 in 2021, requiring health care interpretation is one part of that work. Unfortunately, as the bill has been implemented, most commercial insurers still do not reimburse for these services. Despite the shared understanding of the impact these services have on patient health and health outcomes, only Medicaid reliably reimburses clinics for them. Depending on the complexity of the visit, it is very possible that commercial insurance reimbursement for a primary care visit is less than the cost of obtaining translation services for the patient.

The Medicaid 1115 waiver includes many provisions aimed at serving Oregon's most vulnerable patients. This bill represents an opportunity to demonstrate that these services are worth equitable compensation borne by all insurers, not just Medicaid.

Thank you,  
Betsy Boyd Flynn  
Executive Director, Oregon Academy of Family Physicians