



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

To: Chair Patterson
Vice-Chair Hayden
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: SB 584 Healthcare Interpreters Support

February 8, 2023

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is proud to be a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 584 to better support healthcare interpreters and the patients they serve in Oregon.

Currently, far too many healthcare interpreters are misclassified as independent contractors, despite the fact that it is their primary job. They receive no healthcare and often times no mileage reimbursement and are compensated significantly less than interpreters in Washington.

SB 584 addresses this and improves healthcare outcomes for patients by credentialing health care workers. The bill also establishes an online scheduling portal to stabilize wages and create uniformity, like health care interpreters already have in Washington. Finally, it establishes a retention fund and directs OHA to track how state and federal dollars are spent on interpretation services.

SB 584 ensures that we are living our values as a state: that some of the most vulnerable patients with already disproportionate outcomes get the full health care that they deserve. And that we value the workers providing that care and creating equitable structures, not third party platforms to connect patients and providers to interpretation. We encourage your support of SB 584.