

Submitter: Angelica Rodriguez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB584

Dear Senator Patterson and Senator Hayden,

In support of the continued communicative autonomy of all the limited English proficient and Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients, their healthcare providers and on-site interpreters, I beg you to oppose Bill 584.

While I agree and support that Oregon's healthcare interpreters should be paid fair and reasonable wages, I believe this bill will unintentionally cause harm to all due to the limited qualified on-site resources to meet all the languages access needs.

Qualified remote interpreters have also proven to being a vital resource to ensuring that all patients are adequately cared for in an ethical, professional, accessible on time way. As an example, let's consider the time when on-site visitations were limited due to safety regulations, healthcare encounters were mainly supported by remote interpreters. Also, how in today's climate and in the foreseeable future, Telehealth is a positive, accessible growing opportunity for all.

Because I care deeply about patient care, interpreters and provider access, I strongly oppose this bill and it's amendments.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Angelica Rodriguez