

Submitter: Lucas Perryman-Deskins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB584

Dear esteemed members of the committee,

I am writing to urge your support of SB 584. This bill takes valuable and necessary steps to improve the quality of care accessible to those who require the assistance of an interpreter. First, it would allow providers and patients confidence that their interpreters have taken necessary steps to meet state accreditation requirements. It would also allow patients recourse in the case that their need for an interpreter is not met in line with their rights under federal law. Finally, the creation of the systems outlined in this bill have been flagged as a necessary precursor to the state government directly contracting with the newly organized union for interpreters in the state. Allowing this direct negotiation will cut out the costly and unnecessary overhead of the current patchwork of private contracting companies which serves only to drive down the wages of interpreters and to drive up the cost to the state through the extraction of intermediary fees. This bill makes sense for medical providers, for patients, for workers, and for the state's budget. Please give it your support.

Sincerely,
Lucas Perryman-Deskins