

Submitter: Clareese Carrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB703

I have an ESL (English second language) department that is really pushing for this change. It does leave out maybe a 1/4 of my ESL students because they don't speak

English and do not speak Spanish either. The majority are always Spanish speaking, which

makes people think it's therefore the option available. I have students that were in the medical

field in their country and can not seem to pass the written test even taking it up to 5 times.

I have many non english speakers that pass the state exam the first time as well.

The ESL dept. has bent over backwards by requiring the students take a range of ESL classes and

a Prep NA course that follows our vocabulary, focusing on general healthcare principles.

Then the cohort is eligible to take our NA course in each spring term.

There are currently 2 students who are taking the courses for a second year, right now

in their fourth term in order to continue trying to pass the written test. Its their English and how the tests are written

I just finished reading the Washington candidate handbook. including the 23 skills they require.

I did not see what changes would be required by testing sites. Our current testing, Headmaster, has been nothing

but professional and responsive. It would be a shame to lose them for offering Spanish language tests.

Barbara was has been very proactive and even had independent reviews of the Oregon test questions.

I don't see the benefit of upending all of our curriculum and site requirements in order to offer

the certification exam in Spanish. If we continue to review and make our English language

testing more user friendly, and less culturally confusing, straight forward, focusing on healthcare principles

that are true in any language that should be enough.

Clareese Carrick