

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Xingfa Han, Oregon Interpreters in Action
Re: Support for Statewide Health Care Interpreter Portal

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee,

My name is Xingfa Han and I am a health care interpreter certified in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Shanghai. Doing this work helps people, and it helps expand language access for our whole society. It's rewarding to help give people peace of mind when they are taking care of their health.

When people can't accurately express themselves, their outcomes are much worse. I hear stories all the time from patients who have not had good experiences with appointments because of language barriers, but there are not enough appointments for certified interpreters because language companies hire interpreters who are unqualified in order to pay less money.

If we had a state system to schedule appointments for interpreters and pay them, we could cut out the middleman and our pay would be much better. We would have fair pay and be able to provide more services to people who need us.