

Submitter: Vanessa Bishop
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1578

My name is Vanessa Bishop, and I am a certified American Sign Language interpreter. I currently hold seven interpreting credentials, I have been interpreting in Oregon since 2014 and I have specialized in healthcare interpreting since 2018. I urge you to support SB 1578.

A state scheduling and payment system will reduce state spending that often goes to private company profit rather than the needs of the people of Oregon. It will support interpreters having access to work that can allow them to earn a living wage, which will reduce recidivism and the need for highly skilled and necessary interpreters seeking employment outside of the field in order to make ends meet in our difficult economy. It will ensure that jobs are available to interpreters on the OHA registry first when posted on the scheduling system, making it easier for providers to secure a credentialed interpreter and remain in compliance with state and federal access services laws. Finally, it will make it possible for skilled interpreters to stay in the profession longer, improving health outcomes for patients and providers who rely on interpreting services to communicate with one another.

I urge you to please vote yes on SB 1578 and support the hundreds of healthcare interpreters like myself so that we can continue to serve our communities.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to serving the people of our state,

Vanessa Bishop, NIC, CoreCHI-P™, OCHI, EIPA, ASLPI 3+
OR Temporary License: Medical and Supervisory
Nationally Certified Healthcare Interpreter
Serving the PNW since 2014 | she/her