

HAI PHAM, DMD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 4091

Good afternoon Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

For the record, my name is Hai Pham and I serve as the State Representative for House District 36.

(In Vietnamese)

Chào quan khách, Tôi tên là Hai Pham... Có Patterson, Vice Chu Hayden khỏe không?

And for those of you who may not know Vietnamese -

What I just said was Good Afternoon everyone my name is Hai Pham, and I asked how Chair Patterson and Vice Chair Hayden, How are doing?

How did that feel not knowing what I just said? Now imagine if you were in a doctor's office trying to get care for your sick child but you couldn't understand a single thing the healthcare providers were telling you.

I am sure I have shared this story with many of you and our other colleagues in the building but for the last 14 years I have served the Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Washington County communities as a pediatric dentist, providing care for our most vulnerable and underserved children.

Through my experience as a healthcare provider, I have worked with many families from across the state, many of whom where English may not have been their first language. In fact, a [2021 report](#)¹ found that 44.1% of Oregonians (5 and older) reported speaking English "less than very well".

It is important to me as a provider that I am able to effectively communicate with my patients and that my patients are able to communicate their needs and questions to me.

¹ Migration Policy Institute: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/about/about-migration-policy-institute>

It is important to me that we break down barriers in accessing care. That is why I am here in strong support of SB 1578. We need more qualified and certified interpreters, especially those who translate low-demand and uncommonly spoken languages. With our partnered nonprofits having connections with over 300 interpreters across the state, I am confident that we are building a strong program that will benefit and serve many communities across the state.

As a provider myself, I am excited to see the opportunity to access an online portal that can help with scheduling interpreters for appointments in addition to building up the workforce development program for the coming years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and thank you to Senator Manning for championing this bill. I urge your support in passage of SB 1578.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hai Pham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hai Pham, DMD
State Representative, HD 36