

Submitter: Elena Fairchild
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1578

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon State Senate Committee on Health Care,

I have been working as a medical phone interpreter in Oregon for 23 years. I love my job because I make a difference and help people with limited English skills in stressful situations every single day. My purpose of serving people makes me feel fulfilled and accomplished. My best reward is to make a very stressful situation less hopeless, more clearly understood and explained to LEPs so that at the very least they understand what's going on and get themselves heard.

One of the advantages of the services I provide is the promptness of connecting people, who suddenly find themselves in a dire, stressful situation, with interpreters of their preferred language. These situations may include but are not limited to car accidents, on-job injuries, pre-term labor, acute medical condition onset, mental health crisis event, etc. etc. For the most part I interpret for people who are experiencing unexpected traumatic events and these on-demand interpreting services frequently make all the difference between life and death.

I oppose Oregon Senate Bill 1578 because I don't see a provision there for on-demand 24/7 remote interpreting services that cannot be foreseen, expected and pre-scheduled.

Respectfully yours,
Elena Fairchild