

Submitter: Tammy Pece

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1578

My name is Tammy Pece, and I am the Tribal Care Coordination nurse at CareOregon.

I am in support of SB 1578 as it directly impacts healthcare in Oregon. As a Care Coordinator it is my duty to connect people with appropriate providers and educate patients about the different aspects of their healthcare and work to get collaboration between providers. When a care coordinator has a patient that speaks a language other than English, we use interpreters. Having those interpreters is vital to getting appropriate and cost-effective care for a patient. If there is a language barrier that is not handled by someone with appropriate understanding of healthcare, many people are relying on family members to interpret for them, and these family members might not understand what is being asked and can interpret it incorrectly which can cause inappropriate testing and/or treatments or cause a delay in treating an issue that is acute, but since interpreters are so poorly reimbursed to do this VITAL work making it an unappealing industry, interpreters are few and tend to be overbooked. It's simple, appropriate interpreter services has the capacity to save money and lives.

Please vote YES on SB 1578 to save lives.