

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: June Ng, 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 June Ng, and I have been a health care interpreter for over ten years. I became an interpreter in the healthcare field because I want to help people, especially elderly people, who don't speak English so they can get the correct diagnosis and treatment. I feel important when I can help people.

When people don't have access to a qualified interpreter, they might not get the right diagnosis, or their treatment might be delayed. With the wrong interpretation, patients and providers can get the wrong information.

I enjoy being an interpreter, but I am not paid enough and I don't get enough hours to keep this as a full-time job. I also have to keep getting continuing education credits. That costs money and it's hard to get the time to do that.

If we could schedule appointments through the state, we could have better schedules and get paid better.