

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Elizabeth Sanguino, 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 Elizabeth Sanguino and I have been a Spanish health care interpreter for over 20 years. I became an interpreter because I love to help others, and I know that patients get better care when there is an interpreter present.

I have seen patients who have been given medication and not had proper instructions on how to take it. That is very dangerous.

I love to do this job, but the pay is very low and I can't do it full time. I also don't get enough hours to make the expensive certifications worth it.

If we had a way to get appointments from the state, we could get more work and help more people. We could also be paid better.