

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee,

As a family nurse practitioner, primary care provider, and health literacy advocate I urge you to support SB 698, which would require that pharmacies in Oregon provide medication instructions written in both English and in the language the patient actually speaks and reads. SB 698 will also ensure that patients are aware of their right, under federal and state law, to access interpretation services when speaking with their pharmacist about their medication, but requiring appropriate signage in pharmacies.

Many of my patients do not speak or read English. Many of my patients also take more than 5 medications. You can imagine how complicated it becomes when each medication has different instructions, and those instructions are written in a language that the patient doesn't read or understand.

We know that medication errors happen twice as often in those with limited English proficiency, as compared to those who are able to read their medication labels. This is both dangerous to patients, and expensive to the healthcare system. These risks could be avoided by providing medication information written in the patient's language.

Thank you for protecting the health and safety of Oregonians by supporting SB 698.

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