# Why Interpreters in Oregon Need to Form A Union

3/27/2019

### **OIA Oregon Interpreters In Action**

By Alejandro Rivas

## **Biography**

#### Nicaraguan native, raised in Florida

- 1. I began working at the age of 17, I worked retail and food industry while attempting to finish an education. Community college and it's convenient affordability plus my determination to finish a bachelor's degree in film or video production allowed me to finish inside of nine years. Why did I choose medical interpretation as a trade?
- 2. The main reason is It was the only part time job that allowed me time and sufficient money to survive. It was a very surprising yet fulfilling employment. Recently I found out that agencies who employed us years ago will charge great amount more to hospitals and clinics than they actually pay us.

### Spanish interpretation

- 3. My arrival in Portland allowed me to associate with artists and like minded individuals. I improved my skills by attending required classes and becoming a Qualified interpreter and an independent contractor. There are consequences if we get certified and there's less work assigned to us.
- 4. Reasons why we want to form a union, we'd like provide true support to all interpreters in Oregon. We want to supply them with quality classes in clear language along real life scenarios. (Unlike the confusing test given by CCHI in the present) Eventually we should produce a Test that tests the material studied in those classes which we want to provide to all interpreters. Anatomy and ethics.