From: Thomas Merlin
To: HHC Exhibits
Subject: SB 698
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:38:18 PM

My name is Thomas Merlin and I am first year medical student at OHSU. I am writing to you today to express support of SB 698 (translated prescription labels). Everyone who is prescribed medicine should be able to read and understand their pill bottle label; it is not a convenience, it is a necessity and a right.

Prior to medical school I worked as an Emergency room nurse. Though there were countless patients who I have worked with who could have benefitted from this law I would like to share one particular story. I was helping to take care of an older man who was a primary Spanish speaker. Using a translator I had spent over 15 minutes educating him on how to take a blood thinner to prevent more blood clots, since he was there for one. This is a long time to talk to a patient in the Emergency room, but because of the serious nature of the medicine and the additional time needed for translation, it was necessary. What I didn't consider at the time was that when the patient went to the pharmacy in the next few days to get the rest of their prescription filled, the pill bottle would not have easily understood instructions in his primary language. This is unacceptable.

Please support this bill and we can make it a little easier for patients to get the care they need and deserve.

Thank you,

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