

## Oral Testimony in Support of SB 698: Story of a newborn

Chair Salinas and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 698. My name is Linda and I am a nursing student from Oregon. I am here today as an independent citizen to strongly urge your vote in support of this bill.

I am going to share the story of Liza, a young Burmese refugee woman and her baby who my fellow I-CAN nursing students have come to know.

Liza came to the United States a year ago after spending 20 of her 25 years in a refugee camp in Thailand. Liza is a very good mom and is adjusting to life in the United States. But she cannot yet read the English labels on prescription containers. She was given 3 medications to bring home after delivering her baby. While we do not know if the pharmacy she went to followed the law and called a language line for an interpreter, because as we have testified, we have found many pharmacies that do not do this. But what we do know is that Liza came home with a bag of 3 medications that she could not read. She didn't know which ones were for her and which ones were for the baby.

She was very afraid of giving any medication to her newborn as she had no idea what they were or how to give them. So she did the safest thing she could think of—she didn't give any of the medicine to her baby or herself.

I ask you to imagine how stressful and potentially dangerous it is for a new mom to come home with prescriptions for her young baby and is unable to read the medication instructions because it is written in English.

Please vote in support of SB 698 to protect the health of vulnerable patients, like this young baby.

Thank you again to the members of the committee for allowing me to speak here today.