

Dear House Health Care Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a letter of support for HB 4115. I am pleased to provide the following letter.

The health care interpreter (HCI) is an essential part of the medical team. Interpreters offer a language and cultural bridge between a health care professional (like a doctor, nurse, dentist, etc.) and a limited English proficient (LEP) patient. This ensures the proper communication that allows for the LEP patient to receive quality medical care.

HB 4115 is an important step for furthering the health care interpreting profession. This bill will set a program with the Oregon Health Authority that would require health care providers, including coordinated care organizations, and companies providing health care interpreters to health care providers to use health care interpreters who are qualified or certified by Oregon Health Authority.

I view this bill as a welcome step professionalizing Oregon's medical interpreting. This bill will benefit both urban and rural communities in Oregon and will allow our services to be utilized throughout the state.

The OHCA report, [Working Voices: Elevating the Health Care Interpreting Profession in Oregon](#) is attached. I assisted in interviewing the 97 interpreters across 22 languages for their views on the issues they encounter in their work and authored the report. I applaud the objectives of HB 4115. I thank Chair Salinas for her continued work on this bill.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.

Dana

Dana Coffee

Dana Lee Coffee Consulting

dana@danaleecoffee.com

503-709-3443