



SCHOOL OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Chair Andrea Salinas  
House Health Care Committee  
Letter of support of HB 4115

**CHAIR SALINAS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE,**

This letter of support is on behalf of me as a citizen, Public Health expert, a National Institutes of Health Minority Health Scholar, founding member of the Oregon Health Policy Board, and a bilingual patient. First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for House Bill HB 4115. My views are my own, and do not represent a position from the institutions I work.

The health care interpreter (HCI) is an essential part of the medical team. We should not compromise on the quality of health care provided to ALL Oregonians. 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.

HB4115 is an important step for 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 the Oregon Health Authority.

As a current or past member of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Public Health Institute, American College of Sports Medicine, and the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action, I can unequivocally say that this bill is a needed step to professionalize Oregon's Health Care Interpreting. This bill will benefit both urban and rural communities in Oregon and will allow culturally competent services to be utilized throughout the state.

I thank you Chair Salinas for your dedication to the health of ALL Oregonians and continued work on this bill. I remain available to answer any question and serve the state in whatever capacity.

Yours for Health,

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