

Chair Andrea Salinas  
House Health Care Committee  
Testimony in support of HB 4115

February 6, 2020

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

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a letter of support on HB 4115. We are pleased to provide the following letter.

The Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association (OHCIA) is a non-profit that trains and supports interpreters throughout the state of Oregon. The health care interpreter (HCI) is an essential part of the medical team. Interpreters offer a language and culture 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 our field. 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.

Our association welcomes the opportunity to be part of Oregon's health care field and we see this bill as a much welcome step to professionalize our industry. This bill will benefit both urban and rural communities in Oregon and will allow our services to be utilized throughout the state.

We thank Chair Salinas for her continued work on this bill.

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

*Sent without signature to avoid delay*

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