

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2538, which requires health insurance coverage of health care interpretation services that are legally mandated. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring equal access to quality health care for all individuals, regardless of their language or communication needs.

I understand the importance of having interpretation services available. In my experience, misunderstandings and miscommunication can lead to serious consequences, including incorrect diagnoses, improper treatments, and harm to overall health.

HB 2538 will help to eliminate these barriers and ensure that all individuals have equal access to health care. The bill will provide critical support to those who may struggle with language barriers, especially those who may not be able to afford interpretation services out-of-pocket.

Additionally, the bill will help to address the language needs of many communities, including those who are not native English speakers, those with limited English proficiency, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support HB 2538 and pass this bill into law. This bill will not only improve the quality of health care for all individuals, but it will also help to promote fairness, equality, and access to health care for all.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

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