

Submitter: Carla Fogaren  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB584

My name is Carla Fogaren. I am a registered nurse and a language access advocate. As a nurse, an interpreter, interpreter trainer and experienced language access director of numerous hospitals, I believe I can offer a different perspective. I too believe that interpreters deserve a fair working wage as it is a very difficult job. Since 2020, 18% of healthcare workers have quit their jobs with many surveys indicating that over 30% stated that they will be leaving within 18 months. This bill increases time pressure, workload and adds to the challenges of caring for all patients in an equitable way. This will result in increased resentment by providers who will not want to care for LEP patients as the visits usually take longer and now this will make it even more complex. This will result in clinical staff not engaging qualified interpreters and instead working with ad hoc interpreters such as family and friends who should not be interpreting at all. In healthcare settings emergencies happen all the time, patients get sick and need to see their doctors same day, people do not schedule being sick or dying. Qualified interpreters need to be reached quickly and easily. Adding more steps to securing a qualified interpreter is detrimental to providing safe and effective communication and puts both patients and providers at risk. On a personal note, I too am an immigrant to this country. I was a 14 year old child of LEP parents who had to tell my family that my 43 year old dad was dying with a terminal brain tumor. That has left a permanent mark on my soul. I do not want that to happen to anyone else. I believe this will be one of the unintended consequences of this bill. . Passing it will have unintended consequences that will harm the very people you are committed to serve. This bill as written is not the answer and therefore I oppose this bill