

Submitter: Jack Katson
On Behalf Of: AMN Healthcare
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB584

Dear Committee members,

As an experienced, qualified, and credentialed interpreter, who has given his life to providing members of the LEP community access to their healthcare, this bill is highly concerning.

This will unintentionally harm the growing number of linguistically diverse citizens of Oregon, essentially omitting all other interpreting modalities other than onsite and giving the immense administrative and logistical functions of long-standing language service providers (of whom many of us work) to a small state agency.

No offense at all to the agency, but this is woefully inadequate to truly ensure that all LEP patients get immediate language access.

This seems to benefit a small group of local interpreters rather than the citizens of Oregon. Their messaging that only those who reside in Oregon are qualified to provide interpreting services is simply untrue. Each state is seeing a rise in language diversity and will need a greater pool of qualified interpreters from all across the country to service such a great and increasing need!

Please consider the data and not the emotional pleas of a small few self-interested parties.

Thank you!