

Submitter: Stephanie Franson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB584

I am writing to oppose the Oregon Senate Bill 584. This bill create unnecessary issues like Loss of Liability Protection for interpreters, loss of rates for interpreters, loss of job flexibility (like the ability to work remotely), loss of career advancement for interpreters, and the ability for languages of lesser diffusion to be covered by interpreters. As a recruiter who works with interpreters of rare languages, I have worked with interpreters on the OHA list and there are many smaller diffusion languages that would not be covered for patients. Some of these languages include Igbo, Marshallese, Mixteco, Dinka, Cape Verdean Creole, Hakha Chin, Yoruba, Lingala, among many others. The use of larger LSP provides these LEPs with a way to communicate with qualified medical interpreters. We staff and vet these language interpreters to be available when necessary. I am concerned that should this bill be passed, the lives of many LEPs will be in danger due to lack of appropriate language services.