

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Rev. Dr. Deb Patterson
Chair, Oregon State Senate Committee on Health Care

The Honorable Cedric Hayden
Vice Chair, Oregon State Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: SB 584 - Oppose

Dear Senator Patterson and Senator Hayden,

Please oppose SB584. I am very concerned about your plan to setup the State of Oregon to go into business to compete with the existing Language Translation "industry" that is working well in the State of Oregon. The budget proposed in your bill only touches the surface of the funds that would be needed to operate this new Oregon department. You would need to add funds for the data entry of the interpreters who apply to this database, staff to manage the certification tracking, vaccination tracking, which languages are being provided, etc. The few translators who are in support of this bill should check around to find better pay and a company that treats them with more respect. Our firm pays the interpreters who work through it every two weeks and we pay a competitive wage. The SB584 proposes to pay interpreters twice per year stealing from the Workers Compensation Fund. (That fund would need to be increased due to the staff at the multiple Language Translation Firms that would be layed off who current work diligently to support the needs of those who have language translation needs.)

Please Oppose SB 584. Please more thoroughly investigate this issue before any consideration to support this poorly planned bill. This is a personal issue for me. If you would like to hear how Linguava Interpreters works to help Interpreters, those in need of interpreters, and the medical community, please contact me. I will tell you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Woglein
IT Manager

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