

Submitter: Elena Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB584

As a professional interpreter with over 25 years of experience, I have seen the profession change quite a bit. At one point, it was difficult to accept that onsite interpreters had competition from remote interpreters; and we fought it. In some cases, we lost to remote services, in others we didn't. Over time, I have realized that it is not a competition. I have worked on both sides, as an in-person and remote interpreter; and I see the value in both.

True professionals, those that have an honest passion for helping the limited English-speaking community would admit that a small group of interpreters such as those behind this Bill, can not provide Language Services to thousands and thousands of limited English proficient patients in all languages. We need the help and support of remote LSP who have access to hundreds of different languages.

Limiting resources by implementing Bill 584 would be highly detrimental to the limited English speakers of Oregon.

I currently work as a remote interpreter for a very professional company that looks out for what is best for both patients, clients and interpreters of all states including the great state of Oregon. I am proud to be a remote interpreter and I would not change to onsite work. My decision to work remotely was validated during the pandemic; I realized that it was the best choice for me. I was able to help patients and providers during some of the most difficult times in recent history as well as still have a secure job.

Those that oppose remote LSPs and think that the small interpreter community of Oregon can service all the language needs of their citizens are highly mistaken and have not looked into the real facts of what remote LSPs provide.

As a dedicated interpreter that cares about linguistically and culturally diverse communities everywhere, I want to ensure they all continue to have full agency in their healthcare encounters. Please note that I strongly oppose this bill and its amendments.

Sincerely,
Elena Torres

Thank you for your time and attention to this concerning matter!