

## TESTIMONI IN SUPPORT OF SB 584 (HCI Portal Bill)

**Landi Sonia**  
**Italian Interpreter**  
**OHA Qualified**  
**Core CHI Certified**  
**Portland, OR**  
[landisoniapdx@gmail.com](mailto:landisoniapdx@gmail.com)  
**503-3179018**

Members of the committee

My name is Sonia Landi I am an Italian interpreter since 2017, and I am here to express my disappointment after I was informed that SB 584 died. I moved in Portland in 2011 from Italy where I worked as a lawyer. I live with my husband and two children.

I decided to become an interpreter because I saw a career where I could utilize my old and new personal and professional expertise while helping others. In the beginning it had been hard to deal with some of the language companies because Italian is considered a language 'of lesser diffusion' therefore, therefore I don't have the work load of ....for example, a Spanish interpreter. But , I have the same economic burden of investing my time and money in submitting drug tests, background checks, lab tests and vaccinations which are REQUIRED by Providers but that interpreters MUST PAY for. This economic hardship is repeated every year and exacerbated by the fees of expensive continuing education courses and certifications.

To get Qualified with OHA I was forced to accept unfavorable working conditions, such as low pay. Often to the point that I ended up losing money, because for a one-hour appointment I receive neither mileage reimbursement nor compensation for the time of travel to and from the clinic. Meanwhile I was paying childcare for my children. This unfavorable working condition didn't improve after I got Qualified with OHA in 2019 and then Certified with CoreCHI in 2022.

Because of these unfair working conditions interpreters who are in my same situation are disincentivized to continue with this profession, and they quit this career to pursue jobs where they can get better wages, mileage, access to health care without the need of paying for classes to keep their certifications.

**That is why I am here today to testify and express my disappointment that SB 584 died this week, as this was the vehicle addressing issues in the language access industry.**  
**Health care interpreters are crucial to ensuring Oregon meets its health equity goals. We urge you to allocate two million to the Oregon Health Authority through the end of the session Christmas Tree for an online state-based portal and an interpreter retention fund.**

Thank you, Sonia Landi