

Submitter: Beth Chvilicek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1578

Members of the Committee,

My name is Beth Chvilicek, a resident of Portland, and I am reaching out today to emphasize the importance of your support for SB 1578.

Health Care Interpreters play a crucial role in providing essential care to our Limited English proficiency population. Unfortunately, these dedicated professionals often face challenges in meeting their employment needs. The current landscape sees Language Service Companies, some of which have expressed opposition to SB 1578, capitalizing on interpreters' services for their financial gain, leaving the interpreters without adequate support. Many Health Care Interpreters are underpaid, lacking benefits and reimbursements.

SB 1578 aims to address these systemic issues by offering an alternative avenue for Health Care Interpreters to secure employment, free from the exploitative practices of certain language service companies. As our healthcare system already grapples with significant challenges, shouldn't we be striving to enhance accessibility?

By supporting SB 1578, we can make meaningful strides towards a more accessible healthcare system for our limited English proficiency population without imposing additional financial burdens on providers or patients. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 1578, contributing to a positive change that benefits both our dedicated Health Care Interpreters and the broader community they serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Chvilicek