

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Yin Hanson, Oregon Interpreters in Action
Re: Support for Statewide Health Care Interpreter Portal

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee,

My name is Yin Hanson, and I have worked for ten years as a Mandarin Chinese interpreter. I like the flexibility in scheduling and being my own boss, but there are a lot of barriers to doing this important job as a career.

We don't get any health insurance or other benefits. It costs money to renew our certifications every two years, and we aren't paid much more and get fewer appointments because language companies can pay uncertified interpreters less.

These people really need my help. I am the one person who can make sure they get the care they need. Sometimes, the difference between a certified and uncertified interpreter is life and death.

Having a way to be scheduled and paid directly for health care interpreting would mean that I could help more people.