

Submitter: Sonia Landi
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1578

Landi Sonia
Italian Interpreter
OHA Qualified Core
CoreCHI Certified

TESTIMONI IN SUPPORT OF SB 1578

Members of the Committee

My name is Sonia Landi, and I have been working as an Italian interpreter in the Portland metro area since 2017. I decided to become an interpreter because I wanted to make my expertise available for my community while helping the most vulnerable members of our society who are not fluent in English.

However, Italian is a language of less diffusion in Oregon; this determined that since the beginning, I had to accept unfordable working conditions, 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. 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 situation are disincentivized to continue with this profession, and they quit this career to pursue jobs where they can get better wages, mileage, and access to health care without the need to pay for classes to keep their certifications.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration and urge you to vote "YES" on SB 1578.
Sincerely, Sonia Landi