

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Elvy He, 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 Elvy He, and I am a health care interpreter in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taishanese. I have been doing this for seven years because I want people with limited English proficiency (LEP) to receive the healthcare they deserve.

One of the patients I worked with in the past got much sicker and had to visit the emergency room because the interpreter didn't tell the parent that they needed to go to the pharmacy to pick up the antibiotics he needed. Without someone to give accurate interpretation, LEP patients don't get fair education and support about their health.

I really like my job, but being underpaid and having an unstable volume of work makes it very difficult to earn a living. We also have to deal with cancellations without pay, and the cost of getting our continuing education (CEs) to stay certified.

A state-based appointment and pay system would benefit the patients and the interpreters directly and would allow me to be paid at a higher rate which will secure my and support my career.