

Submitter: Lizette Reyes
On Behalf Of: NA
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1578

Subject: Opposition to SB1578

Dear Senate Health Care Committee, as an Oregon-qualified Spanish medical interpreter, I am writing to express my opposition to SB1578.

There is currently one nonprofit in Portland that runs an interpretation agency. Unfortunately, among the agencies that I work with, they pay the least. We are constantly told that it is because they are a nonprofit. So, how will this new nonprofit increase our pay? I personally like having choices between the companies that I work with. If the nonprofit is created, I would like to ensure that hospitals are not forced to work with them. If they can be competitive in pricing for interpreters in a private market, then I will consider working with them. Lastly, Senator Bonham asked during the hearing what will wages continue to look like if this bill is not passed. The answer stated \$18-\$25. That is certainly not my experience. The companies that I work with on a regular basis compensate me at \$37-\$42 per hour. I negotiated these rates. I also receive travel bonuses, and mileage is compensated if I drive over a certain amount to get to an assignment.

Thank you,