



Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Nelson, Vice-Chair Javadi, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3650.

People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for our families, and contribute to our communities. Many immigrant and refugee Oregonians have faced unimaginable circumstances and are fleeing religious persecution or political violence. And yet, they have made Oregon their home and are contributing to Oregon's economy and workforce. They are our friends, teachers, healthcare workers and neighbors.

Some immigrants and refugees face significant barriers in accessing healthcare across our state. Whether it be an inability to access interpretation services, a scarcity of providers who have similar experiences, or hesitations to miss work to get care, the barriers that these communities face must be addressed.

But it's impossible to eliminate all of the barriers without engaging in a fact-finding process that engages the impacted community.

HB 3650 would create the Latino Health System Task Force, and the bill specifies membership that includes community-based providers, consumers, and organizations that advocate for the health and safety of these populations. This Task Force would determine the barriers that these communities face in accessing care, and help set a plan to help our state eliminate them.

We urge your support of HB 3650.

Sincerely,

Isa Peña
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