

WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH
Health Impact Review Request Form

Date of request: 01 /11 /2023

Requester: Senator Saldaña

Note: Health impact reviews may only be requested by the Governor or a legislator.

Staff Contact: Name: Raman Khanna

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What is the subject of the Health Impact Review?

Bill

Number: SB 5304

Title: Testing individuals who provide language access to state services.

Bill Draft

Draft Number: _____

Decision Package

If possible, please attach a copy of the relevant portion/aspect of what you are

Budget Proposal

requesting to be reviewed.

Other:

Should the Health Impact Review analyze the entire proposal or only a portion?

Entire

Portion

If only a portion, please describe what portion(s) the review should analyze.

Requested completion date: 02/7/2023

If requesting less than a ten-day turnaround during session or less than a 60-day turnaround during the interim, please explain the reasons for the request (for example, needing a review completed in time for a committee hearing).

Please consider completing the optional section on the back of this form, which will give the Board a sense of why this review has been requested.

Washington State Board of Health

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990 • Phone: 360-236-4110 • Fax: 360-236-4088

Email: HIR@doh.wa.gov • Web site: sboh.wa.gov

~ Optional ~

Please consider completing this optional section, which will give the Board a sense of why this review has been requested.

NOTE: When conducting a health impact review, the Washington State Board of Health will consider various ways that a proposal might exacerbate or ameliorate health disparities. Completing this section will give the Board a head start by helping it understand the reasons why a review is being requested.

Briefly describe how you think the proposal might impact health disparities and whether you believe the impact will be in a positive or negative direction.

Access to healthcare is not real access if Washingtonians have language barriers and causes disparities in health care. Before we had professional medical interpreters and state owned certification, many immigrants and refugees relied on friends or children to provide interpretation. Our state is working improving language access and cultural competent care/outreach; that is why I am concerned DSHS is looking privatize out testing and certification that has grown our high quality interpreter professional capacity in our state.

Are there specific organizations or community groups you would like the Board to contact as part of this review if time allows?

Interpreters United, DSHS, Office of Equity, Latino Health Center, Ethnic Health Boards Coalition, Oregon State state agencies have asked to work with our state on improving their certification.

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