

# UMTIA Statement on the Medical Interpreter Registry Bill & Survey

**UMTIA**

Upper Midwest Translators & Interpreters Association

August 20, 2019

## **WE NEED YOUR OPINION**

### **Statement of position regarding the Spoken Word Medical Care Interpreter Registry Bill SF875/HF1400**

### **UMTIA DOES NOT SUPPORT THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE REGISTRY BILL**

In October 2018, when medical interpreters became aware that the Minnesota Medical Interpreters Registry was being discussed as a bill, a small group of UMTIA members and interpreting agencies met with the organizers of the Registry, the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA), and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM). They explained how the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) implemented the Health Care Interpreter Roster after the registry did not go through. The same group of interpreters met with District Representative Mohamud Noor in February 2019 to discuss the interpreter fees collected since 2009, the requirements that had been established for interpreters to be part of the Registry and the new Advisory Council added to the Registry. They also met with Senator Melissa Halvorson Wiklund in March 2019 to state that they do not agree with the minimum requirements that appear on the bill for interpreters and offered suggestions to modify it.

#### **The group found the following sections of the Registry unacceptable:**

- No high school education is required.
- No oral testing of languages of lesser diffusion is required.
- No pay differentiation between an untrained and a certified Interpreter.

#### **These are the group's suggestions for the Registry:**

- Have only two categories of interpreters: Trained and Certified
- Require an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) for all categories of interpreters.
- Require six (6) CEU's per year.

- Include eight (8) interpreters of diverse languages on the Advisory Council.
- Use Registry fees collected from interpreters only to benefit interpreters (e.g. training, test prep, etc.).

**WHAT DO YOU THINK? PLEASE FILL OUT THIS SHORT SURVEY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:**

**(Click on the link below to complete the survey)**

<https://forms.gle/6jYDVzQBc5VCx6Pu9>

Thanks for voicing your opinion!

Best,

**Isabel Montañez**  
UMTIA President

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