

\$81,000 in fiscal year 2015 from the state government special revenue fund is to develop a proposal to promote health equity and quality health outcomes through changes to laws governing spoken language health care interpreters. The commissioner shall consult with a broad range of spoken language health care interpreters including independent contractors and those who speak rare languages, organizations that employ these interpreters, organizations that pay for interpreter services, health care providers who use interpreters, clients who use interpreters, community organizations serving non-English speaking populations, and other relevant organizations including but not limited to Interpreter Agencies of Minnesota and the Interpreters Stakeholder Group. The commissioner shall draft legislation and submit a report that documents the process followed and the rationale for the recommendations to the committees with jurisdiction over health and human services by January 15, 2015. In drafting the legislation and report, the commissioner must consider input received from individuals and organizations consulted and must address issues related to:

- a. Qualifications for spoken language health care interpreters that assure quality service to health care providers and their patients, considering differences for common and rare languages;
- b. Methods to support the education and skills development of spoken language health care interpreters serving Minnesotans;
- c. The role of an advisory council in maintaining a quality system for spoken language health care interpreting in Minnesota;
- d. Management of complaints regarding spoken language health care interpreters, including investigation and enforcement actions; and
- e. An appropriate structure for oversight of spoken language health care interpreters, including administrative and technology requirements.
- f. Other issues that address qualifications, quality, access, and affordability of spoken language interpreter services.

This is a one time appropriation.