



## For Immediate Release

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## IMIA Obtains Support from MasterWord Services for International Congress and Capitol Hill Rally

*A Collaboration of Leaders Spearheaded by IMIA will take to the Nation's Capital in support of professional medical interpreters.*

**Boston, MA, March 12` 2015** – Highlighting the importance of medical interpreters in the delivery of quality healthcare, the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) is hosting its International Congress, preceded by a special lobby day and rally at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

IMIA called out to the field for support and announced today that Houston based MasterWord Services, has stepped up to answer that call.

"We are thrilled and extremely grateful that MasterWord Services is lending its voice and supporting our efforts to "rally to the cause" to raise the visibility of the medical interpreting profession and the need for reimbursement of language access services," said Juana Horton President, IMIA.

Participants from around the nation are slated to attend the rally and some will visit members of Congress. The objective is to gain support for reimbursement to healthcare providers who work with medical interpreters. The rally will then take place at 4:00pm. T-shirts will be provided to Rally participants.

"Interpreters play such a critical role in the provision of quality and equitable care and are not just conduits of effective communication, but enablers of safe and appropriate care," said Ludmila (Mila) Golovine, CEO of MasterWord Services. "They invest in their professional development through testing, training and certification, and healthcare providers rely on their linguistic skills in order to provide appropriate care and treatment," she added.

In 2010 the first multi-stakeholder rally occurred which has now become a historical and pivotal moment in the evolution of the profession of medical interpreters. The event heled bring recognition to professional interpreters and reimbursement for hospitals incorporating language access.

The rally and congressional meetings will serve to bring greater awareness to the profession of medical interpreters as a necessity in the provision of safe, quality care for patients and families who have limited English proficiency.

Access to interpreters reduces costs of care as it enables preventative care. It also reduces costs of unnecessary lab tests, extended patient stays, non-compliance of discharge or medication needs due to lack of understanding, inappropriate usage of emergency departments and risks to patient safety through misdiagnoses. Advocates will call for reimbursement for healthcare providers that incorporate language access programs.

The International Congress which begins the day following the rally will focus on uniting medical interpreter service professionals and organizing advocacy.

Attendees of the International Congress and local interpreters, healthcare providers, advocates, trainers, the certifying bodies of national standards, policy makers among others can all participate in this inclusive and important movement.

“Every member of the healthcare team that the patient interacts with is required to be certified in their given skill. Interpreters need to be given the credibility they deserve and healthcare providers need to be afforded reimbursement for taking the steps needed to support quality care through effective communication,” said Horton.

For more information about the event, and details about the rally contact or visit

<http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/2015conference.asp>

### **About IMIA**

IMIA is an umbrella nonprofit organization that advocates for qualified medical interpreting for every language minority patient. Working with over 12,000 professionals in the field, IMIA promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. As an international trade association of medical interpreters, it represents practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting. It is also the only national trade association of medical interpreters in the US, and is an official active member of FIT, the Federation of Interpreters and Translators, an international organization comprised of trade associations of interpreters and translators worldwide. IMIA developed the first code of ethics for interpreters and medical interpreter educators, standards of practice, annual conference, Education, Terminology Resources, and Interpreter Registries. In 2009 launched the National Board for Medical Interpreter Certification, and developed the first national certification for medical interpreters. In 2013 IMIA formed the Commission for Medical Interpreter Education and launched the first standards for Medical Interpreter Education, and the accreditation program for educational programs. IMIA continues to be a pioneer in the field with its recent work to develop the first Medical Interpreter Instructor Certification Program. ([www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org))

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