

Chair Andrea Salinas
900 Court St. NE, H-485
Salem, Oregon 97301
House Health Care Committee

February 5, 2020

Re: Letter of support of HB 4161

AllCare CCO, Inc. is writing this letter in support of HB 4161, a bill that will offer support for Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) to grow and develop their capacity to support statewide health equity efforts.

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are autonomous, community-driven, cross-sector groups. The RHEC model works by building on the inherent strengths of local communities to meaningfully involve them in identifying sustainable, long-term, policy, system and environmental solutions to increase health equity for communities of color, and those living at the intersection of race/ethnicity and other marginalized identities. Without local control and accountability, the CCO model does not work.

The importance of codifying the definition of RHECs is central to this bill. The model of RHECs was designed intentionally to ensure that communities most impacted by health inequities were at the forefront of policy, systems and environment change work that impact their communities. These communities include; Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, immigrants, refugees, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, low-income populations, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning communities in rural and urban areas, with communities of color as the leading priority.

By working with Southern Oregon Health Equity Coalition (Southern Oregon's RHEC). AllCare has been able to provide trainings for Implicit Bias, Health Literacy, Pronouns, and Cultural Agility to over 10,000 individuals. The region has seen growth from two (2) interpreters locally, to 140 as of 2/5/2020.

Regional Health Equity Coalitions are completely independent of coordinated care organizations and government agencies and backbone organizations may be a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Oregon or a community based non-profit organization.

Under our impression, there will be an amendment to the bill that the Oregon Health Authority will fund the RHECS, which AllCare fully supports.

We support the model of RHECs that includes uplifting and centering the impact of structural, institutional, and interpersonal racism on the health and well-being of communities of color. The model also prioritizes meaningful engagement of communities most impacted to lead efforts; and honors community wisdom by ensuring policy and system change solutions build upon community strengths.

Respectfully,
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