



968 NW Garfield Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330
541.753.1420 - info@vinamoses.org

January 26, 2023

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

I urge you to increase funding for Regional Health Equity Programs so the Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance can continue its work to address health inequities rooted in structural racism and discrimination. Your support will build LBHEA's capacity to create meaningful opportunities for community engagement and leadership, which is vital to creating systems change. Vina Moses Center needs the leadership of LBHEA to build our capacity - and the capacity of our community partners - so together we can be responsive to community health needs.

Because of LBHEA's involvement in and support of our year-end assistance program to families, we were able to increase by 51% the number of children who received gifts and food. LBHEA helped us create a space where people felt welcomed. As one parent explained, "It is great that the kids can come and feel like they are really shopping. [No one is] asking, 'What do you need?' and then giving you a box of things."

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ilene McClelland', written in a cursive style.

Ilene McClelland
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Eileen Tokuda, Secretary - Jane Tappen - John Tacke, President
Justin Bazzano, Treasurer - Vivek Narendra, Vice President