



January 30, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice

RE: Senate Bill 564: Relating to Regional Health Equity Coalitions appropriates moneys to be used for Regional Health Equity Coalitions, RHECs.

Chair Senator Deb Patteron and Vice-Chair Senator Cedric Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

The Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) accompanies and equips immigrant and faith communities to advance immigrant justice. IMIrJ is in relationship with over 140 faith communities throughout Oregon. We urge your support for SB 564 because health inequities that were exacerbated during the pandemic have lingering consequences on populations of historically marginalized Oregonians.

Regional Health Equity Coalitions allow Oregon residents to have a voice within our complex healthcare system. Members of our Oregon communities should be able to advocate for themselves and their communities in a setting that is culturally relevant to all those who are outside the traditional and predominant social culture in Oregon. We are thankful that SB 564 will move us closer to ensuring that Oregon policies live up to our faithful values of caring for one another.

Oregonians are ready for this policy. One of our leaders in Bend recently reflected, "I didn't know what depression was until I went for medical care to [medical volunteer organization]." RHECs ensure that underserved people across the state have a collective voice within our healthcare system.

IMIrJ supports SB 564 because it reflects our value of caring for our neighbors and we encourage this committee to fully support it. Thank you for your service to all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Joanne Mina  
Statewide Organizer  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ)