



February 3, 2023

**Submitted Electronically**

**Subject: Please Support SB 564**

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care:

We write on behalf of Coalition for a Healthy Oregon (COHO) to urge your support of SB 564. COHO is an association of seven coordinated care organizations (CCOs) that serve nearly 350,000 of our state's Medicaid members through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are autonomous, community-led groups designed to identify barriers and solutions to health equity. COHO was a [strong supporter of HB 4161 \(2020\)](#), the legislation that defined RHEC in statute and built upon the pioneering work of existing RHECs forged by Oregonians from underrepresented communities.

COHO continues to believe that a *coordinated* strategy on health equity and community health improvement—not fragmented silos—is the right solution. With that said, we understand the value in RHECs' independence and allowing communities with lived experience to take the lead on identifying solutions. Our wish is that CCOs can be a partner in implementing those solutions as appropriate.

COHO members with local RHEC partners have shared stories of positive collaboration. For those regions where no RHEC currently exists, we hope SB 564 will provide resources and support needed to establish them.

COHO stands in solidarity with our community partners and asks the legislature to support SB 564.

