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LatinoNetwork

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To: Chari Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and all the members of the Senate Committee on Rules
Re: Support SJR 33
Date: 4/26/2023

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic. Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 37 and 42-50.

We support Senate Joint Resolution 33.

We have known for a long time, and especially after the COVID experience, that healthcare is a cornerstone of a healthy life and a healthy community. Unfortunately, access to healthcare is often more dependent on ability to pay than actual need for health services. Oregon has been a leader in expanding coverage of health care insurance, which is critical to access to actual health services in our mostly private/for-profit health care system. Oregon has one of the highest insured rates in the country. Unfortunately the Latinx community in Oregon continues to see higher rates of uninsured households. So while Oregon can boast a nearly 95% coverage rate for most Oregonians, among Latinos that number is closer to 80% and for low-income Latinos it is closer to 65%¹.

This is why we can't take any of our progress for granted. SJR 33 will ensure our state constitution will be clear that every Oregonian, regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, is afforded the same protections to live a life free of government actions that discriminate — from housing and employment to public accommodation to state services. We have made great strides, but health care access is still far too precarious for too many Oregonians. With attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming health care spreading across the country, we need to ensure that no one but Oregonians decide what rights Oregon upholds.

Oregon voters deserve to have our voices heard. Please support and pass SJR 33.

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/ANALYTICS/Documents/Coverage-stats-Jan2021-1-26-21-final.pdf> and <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-of-the-nonelderly-uninsured-by-race-ethnicity-cps/?currentTimeframe=0&selecte>
[dRows=%7B%22states%22:%7B%22oregon%22:%7B%7D%7D%7D&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22.%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D](https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-of-the-nonelderly-uninsured-by-race-ethnicity-cps/?currentTimeframe=0&selecte)