



Date: March 6, 2024

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance, OHEA

RE: Support SB 5701- OHA Budget Request for (RHECs)

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, we are writing to ask you to include the OHA Budget Request that includes the Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) into Senate Bill 5701. We are one of the nine RHECs across the state and we serve Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

RHECs have responded to our communities call by advocating for legislative bills including investments in Driver's Licenses for All, Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, and Medicaid Waiver Renewal advocacy at the policy level. We also have responded to emergencies during COVID-19, environmental disaster, and wildfire recovery. We are building a bridge between our healthcare system and our communities by not only advocating for them, but also inviting them to be a part of our efforts. They are important to voice their barriers in health equity initiatives, but we cannot do this work if we are not properly funded.

We need funding to continue to expand our reach, our capacity building, and engage the community in health equity work to continue to address policies, systems and circumstances that result in health inequities. The funding will help us continue to have resources and in the long term help our state lower health costs as we are working to address these issues. This funding request also has the Governor's office support to help us continue to do this important work.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee has the opportunity to support health equity work by including our request into SB 5701. We ask that you support our request so we can continue to address health inequities which can improve health and quality of life for Oregonians across the state.

Sincerely,



Oregon Health Equity Alliance