

Submitter: Marlina Campos
On Behalf Of: PCUN
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB691

Testimony in Support of Bill 691

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,
On behalf of PCUN, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Bill 691, which directs the Oregon Health Authority to distribute moneys to an entity within the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) that advocates for improved maternal and neonatal outcomes.

PCUN (Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) is committed to advocating for the health and well-being of farmworker and immigrant communities in Oregon. These communities face numerous challenges, including barriers to accessing quality healthcare, which disproportionately affect maternal and neonatal health outcomes. By ensuring that the Oregon Health Authority directs funding to OHSU to address these disparities, this bill represents a crucial step forward in improving healthcare access and outcomes for vulnerable populations, especially among communities of color and those working in agricultural sectors.

The importance of improving maternal and neonatal health in underserved communities cannot be overstated. Inequities in access to healthcare, cultural barriers, language difficulties, and lack of proper support systems contribute to negative health outcomes for both mothers and their infants. Bill 691 would provide an opportunity to address these issues directly by channeling vital resources to initiatives focused on enhancing maternal care and ensuring that neonatal care is accessible to all Oregonians, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

PCUN strongly supports this bill because we believe that every individual, regardless of their race, income, or employment status, deserves access to high-quality maternal and neonatal care. This bill will be an important step in reducing disparities and improving the health outcomes for Oregonians in underserved communities. We encourage the committee to pass Bill 691 and support the critical work that will be carried out by OHSU and other entities working to improve maternal and neonatal health in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Marlina Campos

Organizing Director

PCUN (Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste)