

Submitter: Hoiyee Cheung  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB530

Senate Committee on Housing and Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Urgent Support for SB 530 – Adjusted Funding Bill

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Growing Ancestral Roots (GAR) to express our strong support for SB 530 – Adjusted Funding, a bill that is crucial for ensuring the continued success and stability of immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC-led organizations across Oregon. Without fair and equitable funding adjustments, the critical work of community-led initiatives—including food security programs, economic development efforts, and culturally relevant services—will remain underfunded and unable to meet the growing needs of our state’s most vulnerable populations.

The urgency of this bill cannot be overstated. Federal policies are increasingly hostile toward immigrant and refugee communities, economic instability is rising, and access to critical support systems remains inadequate. Without a funding structure that accounts for the real costs of serving historically marginalized communities, Oregon risks deepening inequities and failing the very people who sustain its economy, culture, and food systems.

GAR directly supports immigrant and BIPOC entrepreneurs in food production, cooperative markets, and culturally relevant agriculture, providing pathways to economic self-sufficiency and food sovereignty. However, the current funding landscape does not reflect the actual costs of providing these services—especially in rural areas where barriers to access are even greater.

By adjusting funding allocations to better serve organizations that are embedded in and led by the communities they support, SB 530 ensures that:

Community-driven programs receive sustainable, long-term support, rather than being forced to operate on unstable, short-term funding cycles.

BIPOC and immigrant entrepreneurs can equitably access resources to build businesses and contribute to Oregon’s economy.

Culturally specific food programs and agricultural initiatives receive the necessary

funding to provide fresh, nutritious, and culturally significant food to underserved families.

Small organizations doing high-impact work are no longer sidelined in the funding process, allowing them to grow their capacity and sustain their vital programs. Oregon has long claimed to be a leader in equity and inclusion, but without an equitable funding model that reflects the realities of serving diverse communities, those words will remain empty promises. SB 530 is an essential step toward rectifying funding disparities and ensuring that resources reach the people and organizations that need them most.

We urge you to pass SB 530 and commit to an Oregon that truly invests in the strength, resilience, and future of all its communities.

Sincerely,

Hoiyee Cheung  
Executive Director  
Growing Ancestral Roots