



## Letter of Support for the Regional Health Equity Coalition Program Expansion

---

January 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Eugene-Springfield NAACP, I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of the Regional Health Equity Coalition (**RHEC**) Program and endorse **SB 530** and **SB 528** in the current legislative session. These bills align closely with our branch's strategic and legislative priorities, particularly in advancing health equity and addressing the social determinants of health that disproportionately impact Black communities and other historically marginalized populations.

The Eugene-Springfield NAACP recognizes that health disparities persist due to systemic barriers in health care access, affordability, and quality. Black Oregonians and communities of color **continue** to face geographic, racial, and income-based disparities that contribute to poor health outcomes. Social determinants of health—including poverty, discrimination, and environmental hazards—must be addressed through proactive policies and funding that ensure equitable access to health resources.

The Regional Health Equity Coalitions play a critical role in ensuring that health equity is prioritized at the community level. By investing in these coalitions, SB 528 will expand their reach, allowing more regions across Oregon to benefit from community-driven solutions to health disparities. Similarly, SB 530 ensures that RHECs can continue their work effectively by adjusting funding levels to account for inflation—a necessary step to maintain sustainable and impactful programming.

As part of our broader commitment to economic empowerment, housing justice, educational equity, and civil rights accountability, the Eugene-Springfield NAACP urges legislators to support these measures to ensure lasting, systemic changes in health care accessibility. Expanding and properly funding RHECs will strengthen Oregon's ability to reduce racial health disparities, improve public health outcomes, and advance equity for all Oregonians.

We **strongly** encourage our elected leaders to prioritize the passage of SB 528 and SB 530 and remain committed to working alongside our community partners in advocating for policies that create a healthier, more equitable Oregon.

Sincerely,

*Drac Charles*

Drac Charles  
Executive Director  
Eugene-Springfield NAACP