

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB530

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 530, which requires the Oregon Health Authority to adjust the amount of grants awarded to regional health equity coalitions for inflation. While the intent to support these coalitions is commendable, I believe that this approach may not effectively address the broader challenges facing health equity initiatives in our state.

Automatically adjusting grant amounts for inflation could lead to financial unpredictability within the budget of the Oregon Health Authority, potentially diverting funds from other critical health programs and services. Instead of focusing solely on inflation adjustments, we should be investing in comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of health disparities and provide coalitions with the necessary resources to implement effective, community-driven solutions.

Moreover, the funding landscape is complex, and automatic adjustments may not account for the varying needs and circumstances of different regions. A more tailored approach could better support health equity efforts, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most needed, rather than relying on a blanket adjustment.

I encourage you to reconsider the implications of SB 530 and explore alternative funding mechanisms that prioritize meaningful support for health equity coalitions while maintaining the flexibility to adapt to specific regional needs.