

Submitter: Alex Llumiquinga

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB528

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 528. My name is Alex Llumiquinga, and I am the Director of Arcoiris Cultural, a nonprofit organization serving the Latine and Indigenous Mesoamerican communities of Lincoln County. SB 528 is vital in providing crucial resources to Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) to continue their critical work in addressing health inequities in rural and underserved communities across Oregon. RHECs can identify the most pressing issues using grassroots community engagement and advocate for meaningful policy and system changes.

The expansion of RHECs, as proposed by this bill, will ensure that communities across the state, especially those in rural areas, have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

I support this bill because, in our community, we've seen firsthand how health inequities disproportionately affect the Latine and Indigenous populations. RHECs have been essential in providing culturally relevant services and connecting individuals to much-needed resources. This bill will help strengthen those efforts, ensuring that the voices of our communities are heard and that we continue to progress in addressing healthcare disparities.

This bill will significantly increase the capacity of RHECs to support our communities. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 528.

Thank you,

Alex Llumiquinga

Director, Arcoiris Cultural