

Submitter: Abby Knipp
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB530
Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of SB 528. My name is Abby Knipp, and I am a local community member who frequently utilizes my local RHEC (Coos County). SB 528 will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue reducing health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting priority populations in underserved, rural regions of Oregon. By assessing these barriers through grassroots community engagement, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities to create effective solutions through policy and systems change. The expansion of RHECs will ensure that priority populations all over the state are getting their needs met.

I support this bill because RHECs provide a critical resource to me and my community in Coos County! My local RHEC is quite literally saving lives and supporting local rural, low-income and marginalized community members of South Coast Oregon to get access to their healthcare needs. If we want strong, economically sustainable coastal Oregon communities, then we need to invest in RHEC's because they are the ones that are supporting the health and wellbeing of our community, allowing folks to be able to work & provide for their families.

This resource is vital to our community and these resources will allow for an immediate increase in Regional Health Equity Coalitions capacity to support them. I urge you to vote yes on SB 528.

Thank you,
Abby Knipp