

Submitter: Abby Knipp
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB528

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of SB 530. My name is Abby Knipp, and I am a local community member that utilizes my RHEC often. SB 530 will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue their work to reduce health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting their communities. By assessing these barriers through grassroots community engagement, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities to create solutions to barriers through policy and systems change. RHECs need to be provided with funding that will keep up with the cost of doing business in our state so that they can continue to serve those most underserved and create a healthier, more resilient Oregon for all.

I support this bill because RHECs provide a critical resource to me and my queer 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 530.

Thank you,
Abby Knipp