

Submitter: Lindsey Bellefeuille
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 Lindsey, and I work at my local federally qualified health center. 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.

My local RHEC supported me while I filed a formal complaint to my local OB office for being mistreated after having a miscarriage last year. Because of their help, I was able to advocate for better care and help my local healthcare facility address its own policies and better train their staff so that people like me will have support in the future. My complaint and suggestions were heard and accepted, and I now feel comfortable receiving care in a facility that I would not have stepped foot in ever again if it had not been for my local RHEC providing that even ground.

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,
Lindsey