

Submitter: Lindsey Bellefeuille
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 528. My name is Lindsey, and I am a community member in 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 my local RHEC supported me through the process of filing a formal complaint at a healthcare facility that I was mistreated at after having a miscarriage. We worked together to create solutions that made me feel like I could receive care at this facility again, and by utilizing my local RHEC, the healthcare facility was more open to making policy changes that will benefit people like me moving forward. Without this support, I would have to drive nearly two hours and pay out of network costs to receive reproductive healthcare.

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