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**RE: Senate Bill 530**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 530**. My name is JoAnn Miller, and I am the board president and original member of the Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance. I am also the current president of the Oregon Public Health Association, president of the Willamette Vocational Resource Community, Treasurer of the African American Youth Leadership Coalition, Treasurer of the KinCultivate Inc. and member of the Oregon Health Authority Developing Equity Leaders Through Advocacy (DELTA) advisory board, however, today I am speaking as an Albany community member. I agree that SB 530 is essential in guaranteeing that Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) can continue their important work in reducing health inequities in rural and underserved communities across Oregon. Providing the necessary funding and resources to enable RHECs to further conduct outreach and assist with financial support will continue to improve health outcomes.

SB 530 will provide for annual inflation adjustments to the RHECs budgets ensuring that the work of the coalitions and community partners can keep up with rising costs and support the important services available in communities across Oregon.

I support this bill because as I stated in my testimony for SB 528, I believe community coalitions are the best venue to bring together individuals, agencies, schools and elected officials to truly address the needs of the most vulnerable populations in a community. I also believe community coalitions such as the RHECs can reach out to underserved and marginalized populations to provide input to the policies and systems that are designed to support them. Finally, I have been doing coalition work for over thirty years in Oregon and have seen the impact and changes that result in these local efforts.

Passing SB 530 will demonstrate support for the on-going work of community coalitions throughout Oregon. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of **SB 530**.

Thank you

JoAnn R. Miller