



February 27, 2025

## CareOregon Support for SB 528

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

CareOregon is a community non-profit organization serving members of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) for 30 years. We currently manage OHP benefits for over 500,000 Oregonians. CareOregon wholly owns two coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Jackson Care Connect and Columbia Pacific CCO. We also are a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, managing an integrated community network and the behavioral health benefit for all Health Share of Oregon members. We also serve statewide through our tribal care coordination benefit. Our mission is to inspire and partner to create quality and equity in individual and community health.

CareOregon is in strong support of SB 528 and closing the gap for communities not currently served by a Regional Health Equity Coalition (RHEC). RHECs are critical community infrastructure for addressing health inequities disproportionately experienced by marginalized and underserved populations; they unite CCOs, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community members to promote equitable health outcomes. These coalitions work to eliminate systemic barriers to healthcare, address social determinants of health (SDOH), and advocate for policies that improve well-being for all individuals. By fostering collaboration and organizing local system stakeholders around common goals, RHECs contribute to healthier communities and long-term social and economic stability. Unfortunately, not all regions across Oregon benefit from the local leadership of an RHEC in advancing this work, including the Columbia Pacific CCO service area (Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties).

Driven by our mission, CareOregon is committed to leveraging the collective strength of diverse stakeholders to achieve equitable health outcomes for the OHP members and communities we serve. We urge you to pass SB 528, ensuring all regions of our state have the infrastructure to address systemic health inequities and build stronger, more resilient communities.

Sincerely,

Stefan Shearer  
Senior Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs Specialist  
CareOregon

