



February 27, 2025

To: Chair Patterson  
Vice Chair Hayden  
Senator Campos  
Senator Linthicum  
Senator Reynolds

Fr: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State Council

Re: Support for SB 528

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and members of the committee,

On behalf of the 85,000 members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in Oregon, we strongly support Senate Bill 528.

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) bring together grassroots community members and culturally specific organizations to tackle the most pressing health equity challenges in their regions. These coalitions focus on breaking down barriers for priority populations, including Communities of Color, Tribal communities (including Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes), immigrants, refugees, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities.

SEIU members are the backbone of Oregon's healthcare and public service workforce, coming from and serving these diverse communities every day. Our members are caregivers, hospital workers, behavioral health professionals, and public employees who see firsthand the devastating impacts of health inequities. We know that the best solutions come when those most affected have a voice in shaping policies. By investing in RHECs, we ensure that frontline workers and the communities they serve have a seat at the table in creating more equitable health systems.

We urge you to support SB 528 and vote yes to strengthen health equity and uplift the voices of frontline workers and the communities they represent.