

Stick Crosby
Medford, OR, 97504
2/27/2025

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 530

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

My name is Stick Crosby, and I am an active volunteer member of the Steering Committee for SO Health-E, the Regional Health Equity Coalition for Jackson and Josephine Counties. I urge your strong support for Senate Bill 530.

Strengthening Health Equity Through Sustainable Funding

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are important community-led organizations that work to address health disparities and promote equity at the policy, systems, and environmental levels. Senate Bill 530 ensures that RHECs remain financially stable and effective by requiring the Oregon Health Authority to adjust grant funding for inflation each year. This adjustment is crucial for maintaining the essential work of these coalitions and ensuring that their resources keep pace with rising costs.

Why SB 530 Matters

1. Ensuring Financial Sustainability – Without adjustments for inflation, Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) face significant budget challenges that limit their ability to provide essential services, support staff, and respond to emerging health crises. By tying grant funding to the cost of doing business, SB 530 ensures that RHECs can maintain their effectiveness over time.

2. Strengthening Community-Led Solutions – RHECs are uniquely positioned to tackle systemic health inequities by prioritizing the voices of marginalized

communities, including people of color, immigrants, low-income individuals, and others historically underserved by healthcare systems. Consistent and adequate funding enables these coalitions to continue developing culturally relevant, community-driven solutions.

3. Maximizing Impact and Efficiency – A well-funded RHEC network allows for more proactive and cost-effective interventions that can reduce health disparities before they escalate into costly public health emergencies. By stabilizing funding, SB 530 protects the state’s investment in health equity and prevents gaps in essential services.

Oregon Must Invest in Health Equity for the Long Term

By passing SB 530, Oregon ensures that RHECs can continue their crucial work without the constant worry of funding shortfalls. I urge you to support SB 530 to sustain the progress we've made and to build a healthier, more equitable Oregon for everyone. Thank you for your time and leadership.

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