

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

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

**Subject: Support for SB 528**

Dear 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 am writing to express my strong support for SB 528, which will provide essential funding to sustain and expand Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) throughout Oregon.

Through my work with the coalition, I have witnessed firsthand how RHECs play a vital role in addressing health disparities. They bring together diverse stakeholders—community organizations, healthcare providers, and local leaders—to create community-driven solutions. These coalitions are uniquely equipped to build trust in rural and historically marginalized communities, ensuring that individuals who have long felt unheard can help shape the policies that impact their health and well-being.

Supporting SB 528 means:

- **Expanding RHECs to More Regions** – Ensuring that underserved areas can benefit from the same locally led advocacy and collaboration that have already made a difference in existing coalition regions.
- **Strengthening Community-Based Solutions** – Providing the resources necessary to support health equity initiatives designed and led by the people most impacted by disparities.
- **Maximizing Public Resources** – RHECs improve coordination between agencies and organizations, reducing redundancies and ensuring that public funding is used effectively.

The work of Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs), including our coalition, has already proven its value by assisting communities in navigating crises, securing funding for essential programs, and fostering long-term partnerships that promote systemic change. Senate Bill 528 would ensure that this important work continues and expands, reaching more Oregonians in need.

I urge you to support SB 528 to help create a healthier and more equitable Oregon. Thank you for your time and leadership.

**Sincerely,**  
Stick Crosby

541-944-5962  
Stick.Crosby@Outlook.com