Submitter:	Cynthia De La Torre
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB528

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 528. My name is Cynthia De La Torre, I am writing today as a community member from Albany, OR. SB 528 is vital in providing crucial resources to Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) to continue their critical work in addressing health inequities in rural and underserved communities across Oregon. By utilizing grassroots community engagement, RHECs can identify the most pressing issues and advocate for meaningful change in policies and systems.

The expansion of RHECs, as proposed by this bill, will ensure that communities across the state, especially those in rural areas, have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

I support this bill because RHECs directly strengthen communities through leadership development investment and championing grassroots community-based work leading to greater community involvement and engagement in public processes that impact their lives. Community-led and informed work ensures more effective and positive health outcomes for all communities, especially historically underserved communities in Oregon.

This bill will significantly increase the capacity of RHECs to support our communities. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 528.

Sincerely, Cynthia De La Torre