

Submitter: Courtney Acosta  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB530

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

I am writing in support of SB 530. My name is Courtney, and I am a community member with connections to the South Coast RHEC. SB 530 will provide critical resources to RHECs so they can continue their work to reduce health inequities by identifying the most important issues impacting their communities. By assessing these barriers through grassroots community engagement, they are able to uplift the voices of their communities to create solutions to barriers through policy and systems change. RHECs need to be provided with funding that will keep up with the cost of doing business in our state so that they can continue to serve those most underserved and create a healthier, more resilient Oregon for all.

I support this bill because I have witnessed the positive impact of a local RHEC on the South Coast. The South Coast Health Equity Coalition (SCHEC) does incredible work, not only to conduct outreach to priority populations, something other agencies often struggle to do, but also to bring members of those populations into critical leadership positions. The result being that crucial advocacy and supportive work is done by members of priority communities, for members of priority communities. I could speak at length of the benefits of the South Coast Health Equity Coalition to our region. Their office alone provides a beacon of safety, support, and joy in a time when the safety and dignity of vulnerable community members are under threat. I work for a local healthcare agency that continues to benefit from SCHEC's consultation services as we seek to improve equity in our policies, procedures, and patient care. I write in support of this bill today because I want to see all Oregon communities benefit from the RHECs like the South Coast has. I also want to see the funding provided to RHECs adjusted with inflation to ensure they can continue and expand the essential work that they do. Our communities are better and stronger for it.

RHECs are a wonderful resource for Oregon communities. It is essential for the financial support provided to Regional Health Equity Coalitions to adjust to inflation to ensure they can continue and expand their vital work.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 530.

Thank you,  
Courtney