

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

I am writing in support of SB 530. My name is Doris Kiragu, and I am a Care Coordination Organization (CCO), employee of Advanced Health. 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 the local Regional Health Equity Coalition in Coos Bay has been instrumental in serving as a bridge to support historically underserved and underrepresented populations. In 2023, Advanced Health helped fund the creation of the South Coast Health Equity Coalition (RHEC) because a part of the CCO’s framework is focused on community populations that have difficulty thriving due to low or no resources within the community. Since its inception, the South Coast Health Equity Coalition (RHEC), operates several workgroups such as Community Connection, Peer Learning Circle and Resource Sharing and several more. The South Coast Health Equity Coalition had been influential in offering a space for people to become or remain connected with their community due to the many branches it offers such as food resources, language translators and healthcare advocates for people in the LGBT+ community. In rural Oregon, this RHEC is critical for the betterment of its community.

This resource is vital to the community and these resources will allow for an immediate increase in Regional Health Equity Coalitions capacity to support them. I urge you to vote yes on SB 530.”

Thank you,

Doris Kiragu