

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

I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 528**. My name is Elijah Stucki, and I am a representative of an organization called Mid Willamette Trans Support Network that benefits from the work done by Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Health Equity Alliance in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties in Oregon. 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. Especially the communities that I serve as a nonprofit employee and as a representative of that community myself with lived experience.

I support this bill because my local RHEC is amazing and has done so much systems change work to make life and health more equitable for Oregonians who are the most marginalized. They've helped shape us an org, helped our community on numerous occasions, and have been vital in our Community Health Improvement Process. We could not have done this work without them and greatly value them as a partner.

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

Thank you,  
Elijah Stucki

Executive Director

Mid Willamette Trans Support Network